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Issue 36

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Events Diary



WIN A TICKET!

WONDERWOOL WALES

19 TO 20 MAY
ROYAL WELSH SHOWGROUND,
POWYS, WALES

Visitors to this year's show can enjoy the expert-led workshops and visit a wide range of trade stands, where everything from handmade buttons to designer knitwear can be purchased. There will also be an exhibition of winning items in the Wonder of Wool competition, plus you can watch the unique Sheepwalk and see a wide range of special features. To find out more, phone **01982 55 22 24** or log on to www.glasu.org.uk

Wonderwool Wales is offering a one-day ticket for a lucky Knitting reader, so for your chance to win, just answer the following question: When will Wonderwool take place? Send your answer and details on a postcard by 30 April to Lee Price, Wonderwool Competition, Glasu, Antur Gwy, Park Road, Builth Wells, Powys, LD2 3BA.

WEALD OF KENT CRAFT SHOW

5 TO 7 MAY
PENSHURST PLACE,
TONBRIDGE, KENT

Step into the creative world of traditional and contemporary crafts, demonstrated by over 250 individual makers and artist craftspeople from across the UK, who share a passion for unusual and beautifully made products. This creative event is a rare opportunity to see eye-catching handcrafted jewellery, furniture and bespoke fashion along with original paintings and creative images in glass and ceramics. Many of the crafts on display are not available on the high streets, so if

you are looking for unusual gifts or a special piece of art, this show is definitely for you! Phone **01425 272 711** or visit www.ichf.co.uk for more information.

GLORIOUS THINGS

APRIL TO MAY
YEW TREE GALLERY, PENZANCE
FAMILY EXHIBITION
12 TO 25 MAY
TRACKSIDE GALLERY, LONDON



These John family exhibitions will feature the work of extreme knitter, Rachel John, along with sculpture from David and paintings from Marianne, with the addition of Clare's jewellery and more paintings and illustrations by Sarah at the London venue. Rachel will also be running workshops almost every month in 2007 to knit a blanket in a week or just practise the technique for a day. For further exhibition details, visit www.yewtreegallery.com or www.tracksidegallery.co.uk or for more workshop details, email artfulliving@hotmail.co.uk

SCOTTISH BORDERS FIBRE-CRAFTS RETREAT

11 TO 14 MAY
THE SPREAD EAGLE HOTEL,
JEDBURGH, SCOTLAND

Janis Embleton of Flight Weaving and Lorna Noble of LornaJay Designs will be hosting the first Scottish Borders Fibre-Crafts Retreat, which will include: a full day workshop in either backstrap weaving or patchwork knitting, plus all meals and

accommodation. There will also be a Borders Banquet and an introduction to the textile history of the area, along with a trip to the Woolly Ewe wool shop in Kelso and plenty of socialising. For more information or to book, phone Lorna **01835 862 870** or email info@spreadeaglejedburgh.co.uk. A brochure can be downloaded from: http://www.spreadeaglejedburgh.co.uk/fibre_crafts_retreat.pdf

WORKSHOPS

DEBBIE BLISS WORKSHOP

17 MAY
LAUGHING HENS,
BURWASH, EAST SUSSEX

The Laughing Hens 2007 season of workshops opens with a fabulous opportunity to meet Debbie Bliss, who will be using some of her own collection of luxury yarns. Designed for all levels of ability, workshops are perfect for beginners, those who haven't crocheted or knitted for a while and the more experienced who want to learn a new technique. Prices are normally £60.00 per person including lunch and refreshments. For further details call **01435 883 777** or visit www.laughinghens.com

CABLE KNITTING WITH EMMA SEDDON

30 MAY
JOHN LEWIS, WELWYN
GARDEN CITY, HERTFORDSHIRE

Emma will show you how to do various cables and make a small project to take away with you. All yarn is provided. Phone **01707 323456 ext 4247** to book a place.

GLOSCAT INDIGO DYEING

12 MAY
GLOUCESTER COLLEGE
OF ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY,
CHELTENHAM

Students will learn the magical process involved in creating a fabulous dye from indigo blue and will take home a set of samples on various fabrics and fibres. Phone **0845 155 2020** or visit www.gloscat.ac.uk to find out more.

knitting

ISSUE 37 MAY 2007
ON SALE 19 APRIL

Getting started

SIZE

Approx: 30cm (12in) tall from base to head.

YOU WILL NEED

Stylecraft Loop the Loop

96% wool (40m per 50g ball)
3 x 50g balls in 1271 Cream (A)

Stylecraft Baby Aran

100% Acrylic (420m per 200g ball)

1 x 200g ball in 1245 Cream (B)

Small amounts of black, pink, white, green and yellow DK

2 x 8mm black beads for eyes.

Fiberfill safety stuffing, available from most craft stores

Special note: If you intend to give the toy to a young child then please make sure you replace the beads with safety eyes.

1 pair each of 4.5mm and 5mm knitting needles

3mm crochet hook for flower (optional)

Note: Yarn amounts given are based on average requirements and are approximate.

FOR STYLECRAFT STOCKISTS CONTACT

PO Box 62
Goulbourne Street
Keighley
West Yorkshire
BD21 1PP
Tel: 01535 609 798
Email: general@stylecraftltd.co.uk

TENSION

Not critical.

ABBREVIATIONS

Skp = sl1, k1, pss0

FOR MORE ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 77

Lucy Lamb

This soft and cuddly cutie will make the perfect Easter gift. **By Val Pierce**

HEAD

Worked in two pieces.

FRONT OF HEAD

Using 4.5mm needles and B cast on 35 sts and work 8 rows in st st.

SHAPE FRONT

Next row: K12, skp, k7, K2tog, K12.

Work 3 rows in st st. Mark each end of last row.

Next row: K1, skp, k4, skp, k3 skp, k5 k2tog, k3 k2tog, k4 k2tog k1.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: K1, skp knit to last 3 sts k2tog k1.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: K1, skp, k1 (skp k3) twice, k2tog, K3, (k2tog k1) twice.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: K1, skp, knit to last 3 sts, k2tog k1.

Next row: Purl.

Next row: (K1 skp) twice, skp, k1, k2tog, (k2tog k1) twice, 11 sts.

Next row: Purl. Cast off.

BACK OF HEAD

Using 4.5mm needles and A cast on 8 sts and work 4 rows st st. Cont in st st inc 1 st at each end of foll 2 rows. Mark each end of last row. Work 3 more rows in st st. Inc 1 st each end of the next and following

2 alt rows, 16sts. Work 9 rows straight in st st. Dec 1 st at each end of next and foll 2 alt rows, then on foll row. Cast off rem 8 sts.

BODY

Work back and front alike.

Using 5mm needles and A cast on 12 sts and work 2 rows in st st.

Next row: Inc 1 st each end of row.

Work 3 rows st st.

Rep last 4 rows until 22 sts.

Work 6 rows straight in st st.

Dec 1st each end of next and every foll 3rd row until 12 sts rem. Work 2 rows st st and cast off. (This is the neck edge).

LEGS

Work 4 alike.

Using 4.5mm needles and A cast on 14sts and work 16 rows in st st, (remember purl side is RS). Cast off.

Using black DK, and with RS of work facing you, pick up and knit 14 sts along one short end of the work. Work in st st for 8 rows. Dec 1 st each end of every row until 2 sts rem, K2tog. Fasten off

TOP KNOT

Using 4.5mm needles and A, cast on 10 sts and work in st st for 20 rows. Cast off. ➤



EARS

Work 2 in A and 2 in pink DK.

Using 4.5mm needles cast on 6 sts and work 2 rows st st. Inc 1 st each end of alt rows until 12 sts.

Work 8 rows straight. Dec 1 st each end of every alt row until 2 sts rem, k2tog and fasten off

TAIL

Using 4.5mm needles and A cast on 12 sts, work 16 rows st st and cast off.

CROCHET FLOWER

Using 3mm hook and yellow DK make 2 ch.

Row 1: Work 7 dc into 2nd chain from hook, join into top of 2 ch at beg of round.

Row 2: 1 ch, 2dc into each dc around, join with sl st st to beg of round, 14 dc. Fasten off yellow

Row 3: Join in white DK with a sl st in front loop only of any dc.

Working in front loops of sts only on this round proceed thus:

1 ch, dc into same ch as joining ch, 6 ch, dc into same st, * dc into next dc, 6 ch, dc into same dc, rep from * all around, do not join, 14 petals. Fasten off.

LEAF

Work 2 alike.

Using 3mm hook and green DK, make 6 ch.

Next row: Dc into 2nd ch from hook, htr into next ch, tr into next ch, htr into next ch, dc into last ch, fasten off.

STEM

Make a short chain using green dk and 3mm hook. Fasten off

TO FINISH OFF

Work in ends using a large eyed needle. Place back and front body together RS facing inside. Over-sew pieces together leaving the cast off edges open.

This is the neck edge. Turn RS out and stuff firmly to give a nice rounded shape, refer to photograph. Do not stitch neck edging together. •

Stitch back and front of head together in the same manner easing in any fullness as you go. Work from markers to markers. Stuff firmly shaping the nose as you go along. Mark positions for eyes, and attach either beads or safety eyes, depending on your preference. Using black DK yarn embroider nose and mouth Use picture as guide

Sew ears together in pairs, placing one pink and one cream together, RS inside, stitch up neatly leaving a gap at the top of the ear to enable you to turn RS out. Fold the ear in half, and stitch together just at the top edge to give shape. Take the topknot and stitch one ear on either side, place a tiny bit of stuffing inside and then stitch to top of head, placing as per photograph. Tease out the loops in the yarn to cover any making up stitches and give that woolly appearance.

Position head onto body and sew in place firmly. To make legs and arms, fold piece of work in half lengthways, stitch

up side, leave top open for stuffing. Use a little bit of black yarn for stuffing the hoof part and then normal stuffing for the rest, don't over-stuff since you will need a little give to be able to sew the legs to the body. Attach the legs to the body using photograph as guide. Sew up tail and lightly stuff, stitch in place. Tease out the yarn on all seams to cover stitching. Sew ends in on flower, leaf and stalk. Stitch the pieces together to make the flower. Thread stalk through mouth using a large-eyed needle, arrange as you wish then secure with a few stitches. ●



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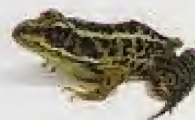
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FILL NOAH'S ARK

Noah's Ark is empty... can you fill it up with knitted animals? Enter our competition and you could win fame, a luxurious Blue Sky Alpacas Bobbi Bear knit kit and a cash prize!



This spring, we are launching a new Noah's Ark knitting competition, building up to a magnificent display of your skills at The Knitting and Stitching Show and National Knitting Week later this year.

Noah's Ark is empty... can you fill it? We love all creatures, from the fiercest tiger to the tiniest mouse, from elephants to crocodiles, exotic birds to slithery snakes. Surely, our readers could capture the essence of some of their favourite creatures in knitted form?

TO ENTER: KNIT AN ANIMAL!

To enter, just post us an animal for the Noah's Ark. This could be any animal you like (or even Noah and his family), of any size, knitted to your own original design. With it, please send your written pattern and the ball bands of yarn or details of other materials used. Plus a measurement sketch of the knitted shape you ended up with, before you sewed it up. Attach your name, address, phone number and email address to your entry, along with your pattern and post it to:

K36 Knitting/Blue Sky Alpacas competition,
GMC Publications Ltd,
116 High Street,
Lewes BN7 1XN.
Closing date: 14 September 2007.

CASH PRIZE PLUS BOBBI BEAR

We'll pay £75 for each pattern we publish and all entries will be displayed at the Knitting & Stitching Show! The top five entries will win a gorgeous Bobbi Bear or Baby Bobbi Bear kit from Blue Sky Alpacas. See their products at www.blueskyalpacas.com, or visit the UK stockists, Loop (Islington, London), Stash (Putney, London), the Knitting Hut (Woburn Sands, Bucks) or Coolwoolz (Co Down, Ireland).



Win the kit to make a Bobbi bear (50cm tall) or Baby Bobbi (38cm) in luxurious Blue Sky Alpacas yarns.



Rules of entry

Normal GMC Competition rules apply. By entering the competition you are deemed to have given permission for GMC Publications Ltd to publish your work. Entries must be your own original work, therefore your copyright. Employees of GMC Publications are not eligible to enter. We regret we cannot return entries. GMC will treasure your entries and use them for displays and to promote the craft of knitting during National Knitting Week, 19-21 October 2007, to be launched at The Knitting & Stitching Show in Alexandra Palace, London.

BOBBI PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF BLUE SKY ALPACAS; ANIMALS FROM MONROVIE.COM

KNITTING COMPETITION



From fleece to garment

Despite a busy life managing the family-run Brunigill Farm on the Isle of Skye, there is always time to spin, dye and knit. By Adam Salter

Three years ago my parents, Ann and Richard, and sister, Becky, decided to give up their jobs in Devon to buy a small farm on the Isle of Skye, off the west coast of Scotland. They keep a host of animals, but in common with a lot of the other farms in the area, they mostly farm sheep.

There are a variety of breeds in the flock at the farm including Shetland, Hebridean, Soay and Jacob, along with two rams called Chewy and Woolly. Chewy is a Shetland and Woolly is a Ryland-Southdown Cross. As a result of this, only some of the Shetland lambs are pure bred, with the rest being various mixes. This purposeful interbreeding introduces variety to the resulting fleeces.

"We like to get as many different colours as possible, although we always have some white fleeces to use for dyeing," says Ann. All of the sheep are kept organically and the flock size varies from year to year depending on need and the success of the lambing.

Shear delights

The shearing is a whole family task. "Most of the sheep are well behaved, but we do have the odd one that takes a couple of us to control!" says Becky. Hand shears are the tool of choice for shearing. "We just find them easier – but we do have an old electric set that we hope to overhaul and use in the future," says

Richard. Shearing was a steep learning curve. "Luckily the locals here are very friendly and there is always someone to offer help and advice if we need it. That is one of the best things about living here – the community spirit," says Becky.

The mixed breeding and careful shearing have already been recognised at the local agricultural show. "We have won several prizes for our fleece and last year we won the Champion's Cup which we're very proud of. It's lovely to have our hard work rewarded," says Ann.

Once the fleeces are shorn, they are rolled for storage until they can get sorted before use. The next stage in the process is carding. "This is the most time

“ If I've seen a stormy sky over a heather-covered hill and the colours go well together, I'll try to incorporate them into my design ”

consuming stage. Some people choose not to do this at all if it is quite open, but I prefer to card all of our fleece," says Ann. This is to open tight fleeces and to mix the long and short fibres. The fleece is worked between two paddles with small wire hooks on, called carders. When the fibres are prepared, they are rolled off the carders into sausage shapes called rolags.

Taking a spin

Next, the wool is spun. There are several different types of spinning wheel, but they all twist the fibres into yarn. The rolag is fed onto a starting thread on the bobbin and teased or 'drawn' as the wheel twists the fibres. There are two methods of doing this,

FACTS ABOUT THE FARM

- The Salter family gave up their jobs in Devon to buy the farm three years ago
- A variety of rare breeds of sheep are kept there, including Hebridean, Soay and Jacob
- The farm has won several prizes for its fleece, including last year's Dunvegin Champion's Cup

- Alpaca and camel hair is often blended with the wool that is produced
- Many of the dyes are made from natural plants found on the Isle of Skye
- Both Anna and Becky are keen knitters as the craft is a strong part of island life

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM SALTER



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Feature

See how we go from Fleece to Garment



the long draw and short draw. Some spinners believe that an even twist is obtained through the long draw method, but the difference isn't pronounced. It is mostly a matter of preference and what the user finds best for them. Both Ann and Becky use the short draw method. "I find it more comfortable," says Ann. "It's easier to relax and go with the rhythm of the wheel."

The spinning stage offers the most opportunity for altering the texture of the yarn to your own taste. A more textured yarn can be made by letting denser parts of the rolag pass through without teasing it. "It's nice to use a textured yarn instead of knitting with a fine wool all the time," says Ann. Other materials can be mixed in as it is being spun, to add colour or texture. "Dyed silk is my favourite fibre to mix, it has such vibrant colours and feels so soft," she adds. Other materials sometimes found in the wool mix include such exotic items as camel hair and alpaca wool.

After the wool has been spun it is still a single thread, so the next step is to work it through the spinning wheel again with other threads to ply it. When the wool has been plied as needed, it is ready to be wound into skeins. This is done using the comically named 'niddy-noddy,' a simple wooden frame that adds a twist to the skein to keep it wound neatly.

Colours of nature

Not all of the wool is dyed; several of the fleeces carry lovely natural colours and have no need of extra colour. However, most

of the white fleeces from the farm go on to be dyed, either with natural or synthetic dyes.

Many plants found naturally on Skye can be used for dyeing. In the spring, Ann and Becky gather gorse flowers and in the summer they collect heather, tansy, bracken and meadowsweet root. In the autumn and winter, they pick lichen. The lichen can be picked at any time of year but they prefer to leave it until the other dyestuffs are out of season.

Ann used onion skins to demonstrate the dyeing process to me. Initially the skeins of wool were soaked in a mordant solution of alum, which is a mixture of aluminium and potassium sulphates,

and cream of tartar. Having been left to soak overnight, the solution was then brought to the boil and left to one side.

Whilst this was

soaking, the onion skins were boiled in plain water on a gas stove in the garden. "A lot of people are happy to do their dyeing in the kitchen, but as some of the materials are potentially harmful, I prefer to do mine outside if the weather is good or in the craft workshop if it's raining," explains Ann. "It's just a case of being careful, using gloves when you handle the harmful materials and keeping them away from food is just common sense." When the skeins have soaked for long enough, they are transferred to the onion skin solution to boil; this is when the wool takes on the new colour.

After this, it is just a question of removing the skeins after you are happy with the colour and hanging them up to dry. The whole process takes little more than a morning, but Ann says that it's still a struggle

“ Skye has a long spinning and knitting history and it's wonderful to be a part of that tradition ”



- | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1 Carding a fleece | 3 Ann and Becky spinning | 7 Ann putting wool in the dye |
| 2 Fleece, rolags and wool | 4 Ann using the niddy nodd | 8 Skeins hung up to dry |
| Fibres are rolled off the carder into sausage shapes called rolags | 5 Jars of collected dye stuffs | 9 Ann and Becky knitting |
| | 6 Prepared wool and dye solution | 10 Shawl, scarf and socks |

to fit it in, "I really enjoy dyeing, but I don't have time to do as much as I'd like. I love to see the wool taking the colour, especially with lichen, when you're never quite sure what the final colour will be."

Knitting it up

Ann has been knitting since she was 19 and spinning since a Scottish holiday sparked her interest 14 years ago. Becky has been spinning from the age of eight but didn't start knitting until the move to Skye. "I didn't really have an interest in making anything with the wool. I was spinning before we moved. Knitting looked too complicated, but when we started spinning from our own fleeces, it seemed a shame not to complete the process and Mum has always been keen to teach me," she says.

"My mother was a prolific and talented knitter, but because I'm left-handed, she found it difficult to teach me. In the end, it was Richard's mum who taught me. She has endless patience," adds Ann.

Deciding on what to knit next is rarely a problem. "Whenever friends or family are expecting a new arrival, we have baby bonnets or booties on the go, and when someone brings a new idea to craft club we usually have a go at that," explains Ann. "Mum tackles the difficult patterns, but I'm always knitting scarves!" laughs Becky.

Ann often creates garments of her own design, inspired by the island landscape. "I often take a pattern as the basis of an idea and then adapt it to my own needs and taste. For the colours, if I've seen a stormy sky over a heather covered hill and the colours go well together, then I'll try to incorporate them into the design."

Producing wool from their own sheep offers advantages as Becky explains, "It gives us the chance to sort the very softest parts of the fleece for baby clothes, then the heavier parts get used for chunky winter jumpers. We sometimes see a pattern and think 'so-and-so's

fleece would be good for that' and we'll know straight away whether or not it has the right properties." This can also have added benefits, as Ann recalls, "I'd started a beautiful jumper one year and just as I was getting to the end, I ran out of wool. I didn't even need a whole ball to finish it, but I had to wait until the next year after shearing to get it – luckily I knew which sheep it was from!"

Both Ann and Becky have more than one project underway. "I'm weaving a scarf with some of our wool and I'm just about to finish knitting a bag. I like making the bags because they're simple but you can add embellishments to make each one different," says Becky. "I'm knitting a pair of socks on four needles with some wool that I spun recently and I've just prepared our last prize fleece for spinning, so that will be the next job after these socks," says Ann.

I asked Ann and Becky whether being in their island location made a difference to their knitting. "Probably not in a practical sense," says Ann, "the Scottish islands are famed for their woollen wear, jumpers from Arran, the Shetland shawls and Harris Tweed. As far as I know, Skye isn't associated with any particular garment, but it obviously has a long spinning and knitting history and it's wonderful to be a part of that tradition." Becky takes a similar view. "It's made a difference to me. I probably wouldn't be knitting at all if we hadn't come here. It's a part of island life and I'd feel as though I was missing out if I weren't involved in it." ●

Brunigill Farm

Skindin, By Dunvegan, Isle of Skye, IV55 8ZS

Phone: 01470 521 505 Email: brunigillfarm@btinternet.com

Website: www.brunigillfarm.co.uk

How to

SIZES

Adjustable to fit average neck

YOU WILL NEED

Nora Madeira yarn, 80% viscose, 20% Polyester

2 x 25g balls 329 Copper (A)

(Or Rowan Shimmer if available)

Colinette Enigma yarn, 55% cotton, 45% rayon

1 x 100g hank in 153 Madras Col B

NECKPIECE, SHOWN RIGHT, TOP

66 plastic coated gold faceted size 6mm beads

3 buttons approx 1.25cm (0.5in) diameter

BRACELETS, SHOWN RIGHT, TOP

36 plastic coated gold faceted size 6mm beads.

6 buttons approx 1.25cm (0.5in) diameter

1 pair 3.75mm needles

Small steel crochet hook or sewing needle and strong thread. Hook or needle size must be small enough to pass easily through the holes in the beads.

Note: Yarn amounts given are based on average requirements and are approximate.

TENSION

Not critical.

ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 77

FOR MADEIRA STOCKISTS

CONTACT:

Madeira yarn products are available nation-wide from good fabric, craft and hobby stores. For stockists please contact Madeira on **0118 973 5196** or email info@thekingdoms.co.uk.

FOR COLINETTE

STOCKISTS CONTACT:

Banwy Workshops, Llanfair Caereinion Powys, Wales, SY21 0SG
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FOR ROWAN STOCKISTS CONTACT:

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A wide selection of beads are available from Gutermann. **Phone 0208 589 1640 for your nearest stockist.**

Metal crochet hooks are on sale at KCG trading. **Phone 0113 266 4651 or visit www.kcgtrading.com**

Goddess neckpiece & cuff

As metallics are so big this year, Ruth Lee has designed some detachable cuffs, collars and neckpieces to embellish a plain garment or to adapt for unusual necklaces and bracelets

V-NECK DETACHABLE COLLAR

The neckpiece pattern (pictured round neck of dummy, right) is 13 units long, starting with 9 sts inc up to 19 sts with a single row of beads at the point of increase. Add beads when knitting A. Change from A to B every 2 rows throughout the pattern.

Using 3.75mm needles and A, cast on 9 sts and knit 2 rows and change to B. Commence knitting the pattern thus:

Row 1: K4, m1, k5. 10 sts.

Row 2: Knit

Row 3: K4, m1, k6. 11 sts.

Row 4: K6, add bead to next st and k this st, K4.

Cont to inc this way until 19 sts on odd number (19th) row.

Next row: Cast off 10 sts and k the rest of the row. 9 sts. Rep these instructions 13 times. Make a row of eyelets for small buttonholes thus: k1 * m1, k2tog*. Rep from * to * three times in all. k2. Knit 2 rows and cast off.

Neaten ends. Stitch on 3 small buttons to correspond with eyelet buttonholes.

DETACHABLE CUFFS

The pattern (pictured on shoulders of dummy, right) is 3 units long, starting with 13 sts inc up to 25 sts with a single row of beads at the point of inc. Add beads when knitting A.

Change from A to B every 2 rows throughout patt.

Row 1: K6, m1, k7. 14 sts.

Row 2: K14

Row 3: K6, m1, k8. 15 sts.

Row 4: K8, add bead to next stitch and knit this stitch, K6

Cont to inc this way until 25 sts ending with an odd number (23rd) row. On next row cast off 12 sts and knit the rest of the row. You should be left with 13 sts. Remember to include the bead on this row. Rep these instructions 3 times.

Make a row of eyelets for small buttonholes thus: k2 * m1, k2tog, k1*. Rep from * to * three times in all. k2. Knit 2 rows and cast off.

Neaten ends.

Stitch on 3 small buttons to correspond with eyelet buttonholes.



PHOTOGRAPH BY JONATHAN HOLLAND

Collars & cuffs shot at Flint,
High Street, Lewes, East
Sussex: 01273 474 166
www.flintcollection.com

How to Ruth's top techniques

Here are some more tips on making a variety of fabulous detachable pieces by Ruth Lee

There are many ways to adapt the Goddess set to suit a variety of garments. You could even make a necklace! Try shaping methods, then work on variations, from a simple collar knitted without beads to a fully beaded piece (see **Sample 5**). Once you have mastered the technique, adapt it to suit your mood.

These patterns are not complicated to knit if you analyse how they are made. Repetition is a key element in all knitting pattern design, from the simple repetition of a knit stitch (garter stitch) to more complex patterns. These key elements make up the main pattern unit (in this case one pointed section), which is then repeated. For the pointed edgings you have three main sets of instructions for each unit: a stitch pattern for the straight border section, the increases to create the pointed shapes, and finally the stitch pattern for the pointed section.

When I work out these design ideas I generally knit test pieces in a plain smooth yarn, building up to the final all-singing, all-dancing

version. For example in two colours with beads, I knit the increase for the shape and finally the decorative stitches.

How to begin

Knit the pointed triangles at an angle to the straight border section by increasing 1 stitch (or more) on every other odd number row. So, start with 9 stitches and increase up to 20 stitches. Cast off these additional 11 stitches in one go on the even number row of the pattern.

Make the increases immediately after the straight border section and at the same point in the knitting throughout the pattern. The new stitches follow on after the point where the work is increased, adding extra length to the knitting. This in turn translates into the long edge of the triangles.

The curved shaping of the neckpieces occurs because of a built-in bias inherent in this type of stitch pattern where all the made stitches (yarn forward method) slant in the same direction.

Copy the samples

Sample 1



This sample shows you how to work the increases for the pointed shape. It also shows you how to make four simple changes to the design.

To knit this swatch cast on 9 sts and knit 2 rows.

Start the pattern thus:

The instructions have been broken down into border section (a), functional increase (b), and pointed section (c).

To make the inc on every alt row bring the yarn forward as if to purl before making the next knit st.

Row 1: a)K4 b)m1, k1 c)k4. You should have 10 sts on the needle.

Row 2: K10

Row 3: a)K4 b)m1, k1 c)k5. You should have 11 sts on the needle.

Row 4: K11

Cont to inc like this until you have 20 sts on the needle ending with an odd number row. On the next row cast off 11 sts and knit the remainder of the row. You should be left with 9 sts. Repeat these instructions as many times as required.

Variation 1

Row 1: a)K4 b)m1, k1 c)k4. You should have 10 sts on the needle.

Row 2: K1, P5, K4

Row 3: a)K4 b)m1, k1 c)k5. You should have 11 sts on the needle.

Row 4: K1, p6, k4.

Variation 2

Functional increases plus decorative increases and decreases for the eyelet pattern on the pointed section. For every made (yarn over) stitch in this section there must be an equivalent decrease.

Row 1: a)K4 b)m1, k1 c)*m1, k2 tog *, rep from * to * twice. You should have 10 st on the needle.

Row 2: K1, p5, k4

Row 3: a)K4 b)m1, k1 c) *m1, k2 tog *, rep from * to * until 1 st rem, k1. You should have 11 sts on the needle.

Row 4: K1, p6, k4.

Variation 3

Functional increases plus decorative increases and decreases for the eyelet pattern on the pointed section. For every newly made stitch in this section there must be an equivalent decrease.

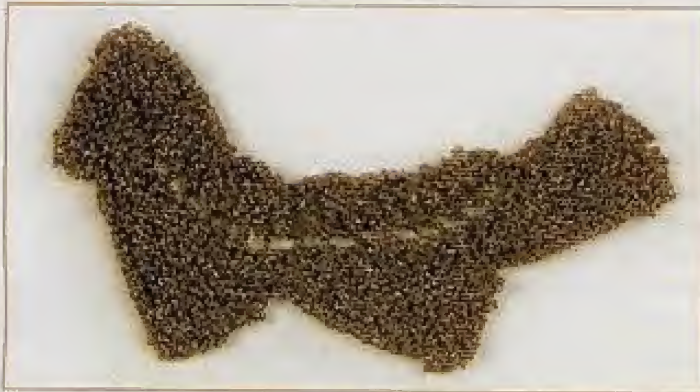
Row 1: a)K4 b)m1, k1 c)*m1, k2 tog *, rep from * to * twice. You should have 10 sts on the needle.

Row 2: K10

Row 3: a)K4 b)m1, k1 c)*m1, k2 tog *, rep from * to * until 1 st rem, k1. You should have 11 sts on the needle.

Row 4: K11

Sample 2



Knitted in garter stitch, this example shows how to alter the angle of the pointed section in relationship to the straight border by making 2 functional increases on after the other on every alt row. Cast on 11 st and k2 rows. Start the pattern thus:

Row 1: a)K4 b)*m1, k1 * rep from * to * twice c)k3.

You should have 11 sts on the needle.

Row 2: K11

Row 3: a)K4 b)*m1, k1 * rep from * to * twice c)K5.

You should have 13 sts on the needle.

Row 4: K13

Continue to inc until you have 25 sts on the needle ending with an odd number row. On the next row cast off 14 sts and knit the remainder of the row. You should be left with 11 sts. Rep as required.

Sample collar without beads

Sample 3



This shows a quick collar without beading worked in garter stitch in Colinette Enigma and Nora Madeira (or Rowan Shimmer if

available) on size 3.75mm needles. This example is 10 pattern units long, 9 sts increased to 20 sts as described above with a straight border of 4 sts throughout. Alternate the yarns every 2 rows leaving the yarn not knitting attached throughout.

Adding beads

To use beads in knitting you can either string up the beads onto the knitting yarn, or add individual beads as required. The latter technique is used in these projects. You will need either a very fine metal crochet hook (method A) that will fit through the holes in your chosen beads or a needle and strong linen thread (method B).

Method A

Put beads in a shallow dish. At the point where you want the bead in the knitting first scoop up the bead onto the stem of the crochet hook. Insert the point of the crochet hook through the next stitch on the left-hand needle, at the same time removing the stitch from the knitting needle. Draw the loop through the hole in the bead and replace the stitch plus bead back onto the left-hand knitting needle. Knit this stitch as required by the pattern.

Method B

Use a needle and a length of strong sewing thread in place of the crochet hook. This is ideal for beads with small eyes or delicate glass beads.

Cut a 20cm length of strong thread. Thread both short ends through the eye of the needle first checking that the eye of the needle will fit through the hole in the beads. Insert the threaded needle through the hole in the bead, then through the stitch loop and back through the same hole in the opposite direction. Pull on the thread to draw the stitch loop through the bead hole. The length of thread can be used many times over.

Samples with beads

Sample 4



This develops sample 3, this time with simple beading worked into the garter stitch border. Yarns and needle size as before. This example is 9 pattern units long, 13 sts inc to 21 sts as described above with a straight border of 6 st throughout.

Alternate the yarns every 2 rows leaving the yarns attached to the knitting throughout. Knit rows 1 and 2 in Nora Madeira or Rowan Shimmer. Add beads on row 2 of border section only and on every other stitch. Knit rows 3 and 4 in Collinette Enigma.

How to

Sample 5



This is the deluxe version of samples 3 and 4, with a full row of beading on every fourth row. Yarns and needle size as before. Knit rows 1 and 2 in Nora Madeira (or Rowan Shimmer). Add beads on row 2 on every other stitch. Knit rows 3 and 4 in Colinette Enigma.

Change the patterns

Variation 1: Alter the length of the collar by simply adding or subtracting the number of pattern repeats. For example 8 or 12 pattern units in total instead of the original 10 units.

Variation 2: Alter the width (top of straight border to end of point) without changing the long length, by simply adding or subtracting sts to the number of sts cast on at the beginning of the knitting and incorporate these extra sts into the straight border section as shown. The new instructions are shown in brackets. Cast on 9[11:13] sts and knit 2 rows. The instructions have been broken down into border section (a), functional increase (b), and pointed section (c).

Row 1: a) K4[6:8] b)m1, k1 c)k4.

You should have 10[12:14] sts on the needle.

Row 2: K10[12:14]

Row 3: a)K4[6:8] b)m1, k1 c)k5.

You should have 11[13:15] sts on the needle.

Row 4: K11[13:15]

Continue to inc until you have 20[22:24] sts on the needle ending with an odd number row. On the next row cast off 11 sts and k the rest of the row. You should be left with 9[11:13] sts. Rep as required.

Variation 3: Change the width (straight edge to end of point) of the piece by inc more or less sts than given in the pattern. The changes are in brackets.

Cast on 9 sts and knit 2 rows.

Row 1: a)K4 b)m1, k1 c)k4. You should have 10 sts on the needle.

Row 2: K10

Row 3: a)K4 b)m1, k1 c)k5. You should have 11 sts on the needle.

Row 4: K11

Continue to inc in this manner until you have 20[25] sts on the needle ending with an odd number row. On the next row cast off 11[16] sts and knit the remainder of the row. You should be left with 9 sts. Rep these instructions as required.

Variation 4: Change the width of the border and the length of the pointed section.

Cast on 9[11: 13] sts and k2 rows. Commence the pattern thus:

Row 1: a) K4[6: 8] b)m1, k1 c)k4.

You should have 10[12:14] sts on the needle.

Row 2: K10[12:14]

Row 3: a)K4[6:8] b)m1, k1 c)k5.

You should have 11[13:15] sts on the needle.

Row 4: K11[13:15]

Continue to inc this way until you have 25[27:29] sts on the needle ending with an odd number row. On the next row cast off 16 sts and knit the remainder of the row. You should be left with 9[11:13] sts. Rep as required.

Note: if you change the width it will change the length of the piece. For example, if it takes 9 extra rows to increase out for a long point then the length will be 9 extra rows long.

Multiple beads

Experiment with beads on a variety of stitch patterns, such as elongated stitches or made stitches (yarn forward method). In both of these examples the longer stitch means that a greater variety of sizes of beads can be added into the knitting on each individual stitch, or pile two or three small beads one on top of each other for a more dramatic effect.


Beads

I used plastic coated beads, used mainly for dance costumes, which are light to wear. Glass beads have wonderful reflective qualities and a greater depth of colour. Glass beads can distort the shape of the piece if used in any great quantity when knitted in with a soft yarn. The same pattern knitted in fine wire and small glass beads would hold its shape better. ●

Knitting BEAUTIFUL BOAS & SCARVES



Ruth explores many unusual knitting techniques in her recent book **Knitting Beautiful Boas and Scarves**, by Ruth Lee, GMC Publications, phone 01273 488 005 or visit www.thegmcgroup.com



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Getting started

SIZES

To fit chest:

97[102:107:112:117:122]cm
(38[40:42:44:46:48]in)

Actual measurement:

104[110:116:118:124:128]cm
(41[43.5:45.5:46.5:49:50.5]in)

Length: 70[71:72:74:75:76]cm
(27.5[28:28.5:29:29.5:30]in)

Sleeve seam: 47[48:50:51:52:53]cm
(18.5[19:19.5:20]in)

Figures in square brackets refer to larger sizes, where there is only one set of figures this applies to all sizes.

YOU WILL NEED

Sublime Cashmere Merino

Silk DK 75% Extra Fine Merino,
20% Silk, 5% Cashmere
(116m per 50g)

Round neck: 13[14:15:15:16:17]
x 50g balls in 010 Sea pearl

Vee-neck: 13[14:15:15:16:17]
x 50g balls in 008 Sage

1 pair each of 3.25mm and 4mm needles.
2 stitch holders.

Note: Yarn amounts given are based on average requirements and are approximate.

FOR SUBLIME STOCKISTS CONTACT: SUBLIME

Flanshawe Lane, Wakefield
West Yorkshire, WF2 9ND
Tel: 01924 371 501

Email: contactus@sublimeyarns.com
Website: www.sublimeyarns.com

TENSION

22 sts and 28 rows to 10cm over st st using 4mm needles.

Use larger or smaller needles if necessary to obtain correct tension.

ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 77

TIPS

Circle the size you are making.
Regularly measure the width of the back as you knit (see measurement chart).

Attitude

This casual sweater in two variations is from
Sublime book 603 in cashmere merino silk DK

ROUND-NECK SWEATER

BACK

Using your main needle cast on 115[121:127:131:137:141] sts. Starting with a knit row, work in st st until back measures 70[71:72:74:75:76]cm, (27.5[28:28.5:29:29.5:30]in), finishing after a WS row. The back should measure approximately 52[55:58:59:62:64]cm, (20.5[22:23:23:24.5:25]in) across at this point.

SHAPE SHOULDERS

Cast off 20[21:22:23:24:25] sts at beg of next 2 rows. 75[79:83:85:89:91] sts. Cast off 20[22:22:23:24:25] sts at beg of next 2 rows. 35[35:39:39:41:41] sts. Break off yarn and slip rem 35[35:39:39:41:41] sts onto a stitch holder. (You will come back to these sts later for the neckband).

FRONT

Work as given for back until work measures 59[60:61:62:62:63]cm, (23:[24:24:24.5:24.5:25]in), finishing after a WS row.

SHAPE NECK

RS of work facing you, divide for the neck thus:

Knit 50[53:55:57:60:62] sts, slip rem 65[68:72:74:77:79] sts onto a stitch holder (you will come back to these 65[68:72:74:77:79] sts later to work the second side of neck). Purl 1 row back then work 4 rows dec 1 st at neck edge in every row until 46[49:51:53:56:58] sts. Work 2[2:4:4:4:4] rows, dec 1 st at neck edge in 1st and 0[0:3rd:3rd:3rd:3rd] row. 45[48:49:51:54:56] sts. Work 17[17:17:17:21:21] rows dec 1 st at neck edge in 1st and every foll 4th row. 40[43:44:46:48:50] sts.

Work straight until front measures the same as back to shoulder shaping.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Next row: Cast off 20[21:22:23:24:25]

sts, work to end. 20[22:22:23:24:25] sts.

Next row: Purl.

Cast off rem 20[22:22:23:24:25] sts.

To work the second side of the neck return the 65[68:72:74:77:79] sts left on a stitch holder onto the main needle.

With RS of work facing slip the first 15[15:17:17:17:17] sts back onto the stitch holder and leave at the centre front of the neck (you will come back to these 15[15:17:17:17:17] sts later for the neckband). Rejoin yarn to the rem 50[53:55:57:60:62] sts and knit to end of the row. Purl 1 row back then work 4 rows dec 1 st at neck edge in every row until 46[49:51:53:56:58] sts. Work 2[2:4:4:4:4] rows dec 1 st at neck edge in 1st and 0[0:3rd:3rd:3rd:3rd] row.

45[48:49:51:54:56] sts. Work a further 17[17:17:17:21:21] rows dec 1 st at neck edge in 1st and every foll 4th row until 40[43:44:46:48:50] sts. Work straight until front measures same as back to shoulder shaping.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Next row: Cast off 20[21:22:23:24:25] sts, purl to end.

Next row: Knit.

Cast off rem 20[22:22:23:24:25] sts.

SLEEVE

Using 4mm needles cast on 62[62:64:64:68:68] sts.

Start and work in st st throughout and work 13[49:87:113:107:139] rows inc 1 st at each end of 7th[7th:9th:5th:5th:7th] and every foll 6th row (there will be 5 rows straight between each inc row). 66[78:92:102:104:114] sts.

The sleeve should measure approx 30[35:42:46:47:52]cm, (12[14:16.5:18:18.5:20.5]in) across at this point.

1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sizes

only: Work 104[72:40:16:24] rows inc 1 ➤



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Welcome to Ed's letter

PHOTOGRAPH BY DUNCANSHOTTE.COM



Easter falls this month, and to celebrate spring and summer we've started our patterns with Lucy Lamb – a knitted toy so cute that we might have to adopt her as our magazine mascot (**page 10**). How many of you make knitted toys for children, for charity, or to sell? We'd love to see what you do, so we're challenging you with a new competition. The Ark is empty... can you design and make an animal to go inside? There's a prize for every pattern published over the coming months... **See page 15**.

Full of the joys of spring, we were inspired by Adam Salter's tale of how his family became sheep farmers, spinning and dyeing the wool into yarn for knitting (**page 16**). One of this year's hottest fashion stories has been about fabric with a metallic sheen and we're all supposed to wear it like classical Greek goddesses. Well, you may be lucky enough to look like Venus or Aphrodite, but I'm going to have to work at this one. Luckily, Ruth Lee has knitted collars and cuffs using gold, copper and bronze yarn, beads and sequins. They're as pretty as jewellery and will transform a plain dress or jumper – turning you into a goddess! (**See page 20**).

**Happy knitting,
Kate, Editor**



Lucy Lamb, page 10

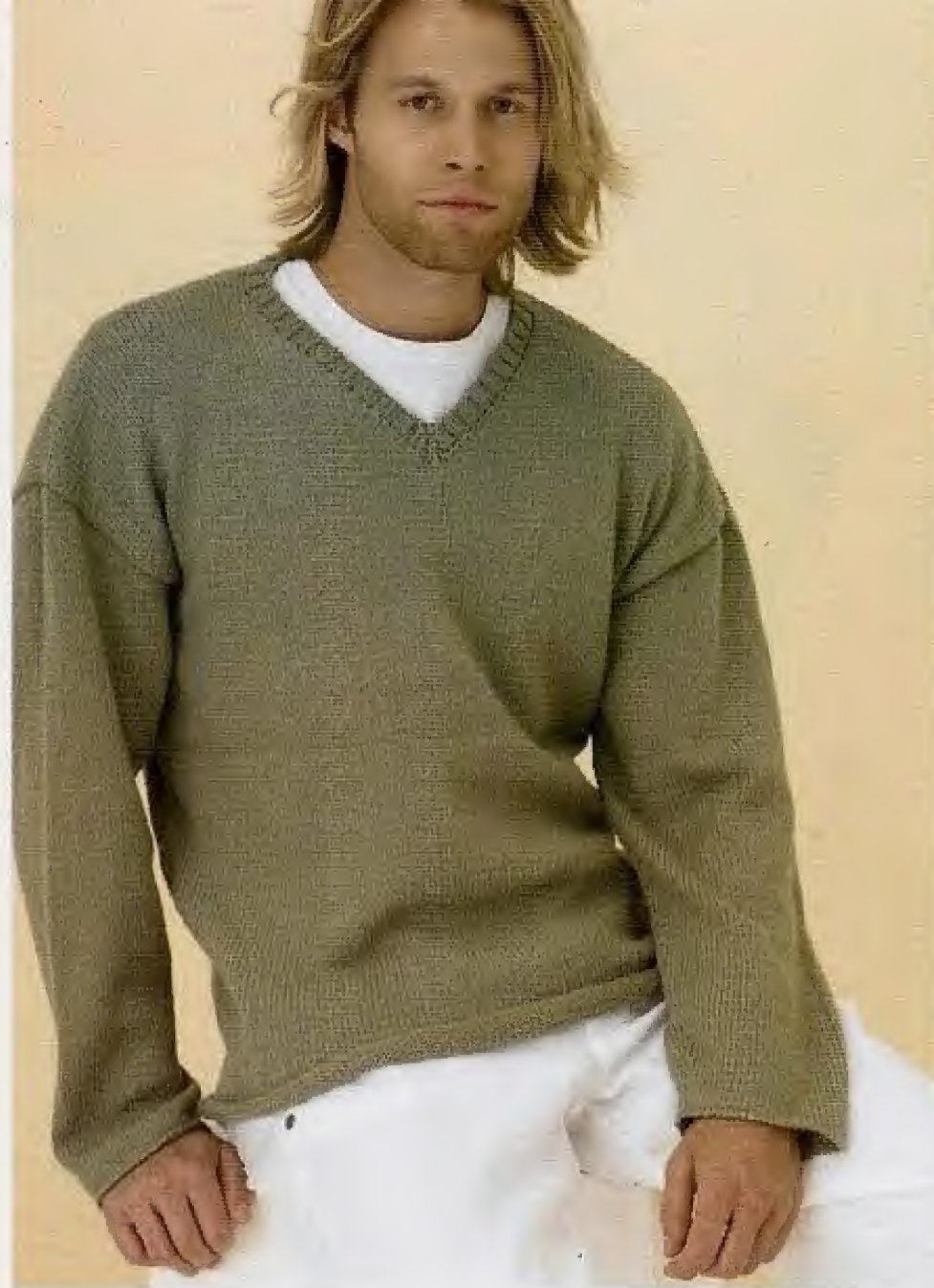
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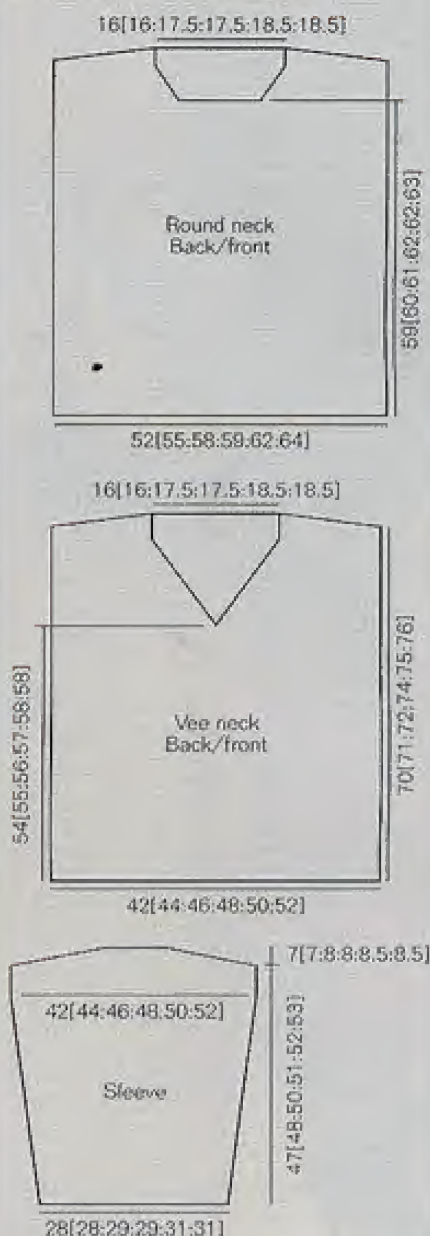
We're very excited about Knitting at the moment and the magazine is moving up a gear, from May. Our designer Claire discovered that we could save six editorial pages per issue by printing the gorgeous photos for all our patterns early on in the magazine and all the instructions at the back. Imagine the fun Emma, Katie, Claire and I have had dreaming up new ideas for those extra pages!

You can help us. We'd love to print your stories under the banner 'My favourite pattern'. What's the best item you have knitted? Who was it for and why did you make it? Tell us a good story in 300 words and send a photo of the knitted or crocheted item! Include your name, address, phone number and email so that we can send a prize to the ones we print. If you've written the pattern yourself please send us the pattern too!



MEASUREMENT DIAGRAM

all measurements are in inches



st at each end of 8th and every foll 8th row (there will be 7 rows straight between each inc row) until 92[96:102:106:110] sts. The sleeve should measure approximately 42[44:46:48:50]cm, (16.5[17:18:19:20]in) across at this point.

All sizes: Work straight until sleeve measures 47[48:50:51:52:53]cm, (18.5[19:20:20.5:21]in).

SHAPE TOP

Cast off 4 sts at beg of next 20[20:22:22:24:24] rows. Cast off rem 12[16:14:18:14:18] sts.

NECKBAND

Join R shoulder seam then using 3.25mm needle pick up the sts around the neck shaping thus:
With RS facing pick up and knit 30[30:31:31:34:34] sts evenly down L side of neck, knit across 15[15:17:17:17:17] sts left on a stitch holder at centre front neck, pick up and knit 30[30:31:31:34:34]

sts evenly up R side of neck and knit across 35[35:39:39:41:41] sts left on a stitch holder at centre back neck. 110[110:118:118:126:126] sts.

Row 1: P2, * k2, p2, rep from * to end.

Row 2: * K2, p2, rep from * to last 2 sts, k2. Rep 1st and 2nd rows once, then 1st row once.

TO FINISH OFF

Join L shoulder and neckband seams. Fold sleeves in half lengthways, then placing folds to shoulder seams, sew sleeves in position for approx 23[24:25:27:28:28]cm, (9[9.5:10:11:11:11]in) from top of shoulder. Join side and sleeve seams. Pin out garment to the measurement given and cover with damp cloths until dry. See ball band for washing and further care instructions.

VEE-NECK SWEATER

BACK

Work as given for back of round neck sweater.

FRONT

Work front as given for back of round neck sweater until work measures 54[55:56:57:58:58]cm, (21[22:22:22.5:23:23]in) finishing after a WS row.

SHAPE NECK

Beg with RS of work facing you, divide for neck thus:

Knit 57[60:63:65:68:70] sts, slip rem 58[61:64:66:69:71] sts onto a stitch holder (you will come back to these 58[61:64:66:69:71] sts later to work the second side of the neck). Purl 1 row back. Work 34[34:38:38:40:40] rows dec 1 st at neck edge in 1st and every foll alt row. 40[43:44:46:48:50] sts. Work straight until front measures the same as back to shoulder shaping.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Next row: Cast off 20[21:22:23:24:25] sts, knit to end.

Next row: Purl.

Cast off rem 20[22:22:23:24:25] sts.

To work the second side of the neck return the 58[61:64:66:69:71] sts left on a stitch holder onto the main needle.

With RS of work facing you slip 1st st onto a safety pin and leave at centre front of the neck (you will come back to this st later for the neckband).

Rejoin yarn to the rem

57[60:63:65:68:70] sts, and knit to end of row. Purl 1 row back.

Work 34[34:38:38:40:40] rows dec

1 st at neck edge in 1st and every foll alt row. 40[43:44:46:48:50] sts.

Work straight until front measures the same as back to shoulder shaping.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Next row: Cast off 20[21:22:23:24:25] sts, purl to end.

Next row: Knit.

Cast off rem 20[22:22:23:24:25] sts.

SLEEVES

Work as given for sleeves of round neck sweater.

NECKBAND

Join R shoulder seam then using 3.25mm needle pick up sts around neck shaping thus: With RS facing pick up and knit 44[44:48:48:48:48] sts evenly down L side of neck, knit 1 st from safety pin at centre front of neck, pick up and knit 44[44:48:48:48:48] sts evenly up R side of neck and across 36[36:36:36:40:40] sts from 35[35:39:39:41:41] sts cast off at centre back neck.

125[125:133:133:137:137] sts.

Row 1: (P2, k2) 20[20:21:21:22:22] times, p1, (k2, p2) 11[11:12:12:12:12] times.

Row 2: (K2, p2) 10[10:11:11:11:11] times, k2, p2tog, k1, p2togtbl, k2, (p2, k2) 19[19:20:20:21:21] times.

123[123:131:131:135:135] sts.

Row 3: (P2, k2) 19[19:20:20:21:21] times, p2, k1, p1, k1, p2, (k2, p2) 10[10:11:11:11:11] times.

Row 4: (K2, p2) 10[10:11:11:11:11] times, k1, k2tog, k1, s1, k1, pssso, k1, (p2, k2) 19[19:20:20:21:21] times.

121[121:129:129:133:133] sts.

Row 5: (P2, k2) 19[19:20:20:21:21] times, p2tog, p1, p2togtbl, (k2, p2) 10[10:11:11:11:11] times.

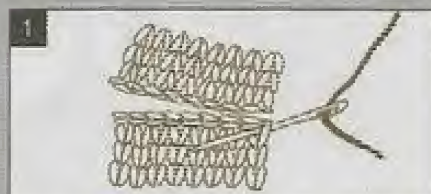
119[119:127:127:131:131] sts.

Cast off working centre 5 sts by p2togtbl, k1, p2tog.

TO FINISH OFF

Work as given for round-neck sweater. ●

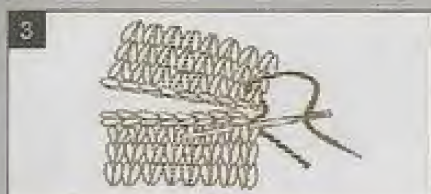
JOINING HORIZONTAL OR SHOULDER SEAMS



1. Lay the pieces to be sewn edge to edge. Starting at the right hand side of work bring the needle up through the centre of the first stitch as shown in **diagram 1**.



2. Pass the needle under both strands of the first stitch of the upper piece (emerging between the first and second stitches of the upper piece) as shown in **diagram 2**.



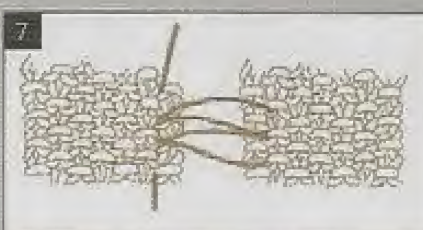
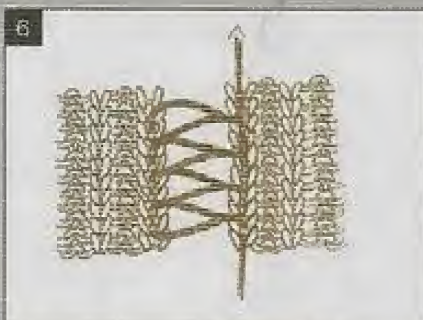
3. Then take the needle back into the centre of the first stitch on the lower piece and emerging up through the centre of the next stitch to the left as shown in **diagram 3**.

* On the upper piece take the needle down behind the first two strands of the next stitch to the left. Then crossing to the lower piece take the needle down through the centre of the last stitch worked emerging through the centre of the next stitch. Repeat from * to * to end.



4. **Diagram 4** shows a finished seam, with the dark thread representing the stitched row.

These examples show stocking stitch pieces sewn together, but the principle is the same for any knitted fabric.



JOINING VERTICAL SEAMS (i.e. SIDE OR SLEEVE SEAMS) MATTRESS STITCH

With right side of work facing lay the two pieces to be joined flat and edge to edge. Working from the front and either one stitch or half a stitch in from the edge on each piece, depending on what fabric you are sewing together, insert the needle from the front through the centre of stitch sliding it under two rows as illustrated in **diagrams 5, 6, and 7**. (We recommend that you take a full stitch from each side when joining garter stitch and moss stitch, but only half a stitch when joining stocking stitch or ribbed patterns). Cross to the opposite piece of work and slide the needle under two rows at a time. Repeat this action. Make sure that you don't miss any rows and that the work matches at both sides. Once the garment is complete place a damp cloth over a thick towel. Place the garment onto the damp cloth. Pin out the garment to the measurements given, making sure that enough pins are used so that the outline of the garment remains smooth. Cover with damp cloths and leave to dry naturally.

Getting started

SIZES

Actual measurement:

175.5 cm long x 21 cm wide (69 x 8in)
exc tassels.

YOU WILL NEED

UK Alpaca DK

(70% fine UK Alpaca/30% Blueface
Leicester wool)

4 x 50g balls in Fawn (A)

1 x 50g in each of Parchment (B),

Dark Wine (C), Green (D), Lilac (E),

Magenta (F), Moonlight Blue (G)

1 pair each of 4mm and 3.25mm needles
2.5mm crochet hook.

Note: Yarn amounts given are based
on average requirements and are
approximate.

FOR UK ALPACA

STOCKISTS CONTACT:

UK ALPACA

Vulsoombe Farm,

Vulsoombe Lane,

Cruwys Morchard,

Tiverton,

Devon,

EX16 8NB

Tel: 01884 243579

Tel: 01598 753644

Fax: 01844 243514

Email: enquiries@ukalpaca.com

Website: www.ukalpaca.com

TENSION

24 sts and 31 rows to 10 cm over st st
and intarsia using 4mm needles after
light steaming.

Use larger or smaller needles if
necessary to obtain correct tension.

ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 77

PATTERN NOTES

Colour patt worked by intarsia from chart.

Read odd (RS) rows from R to L and

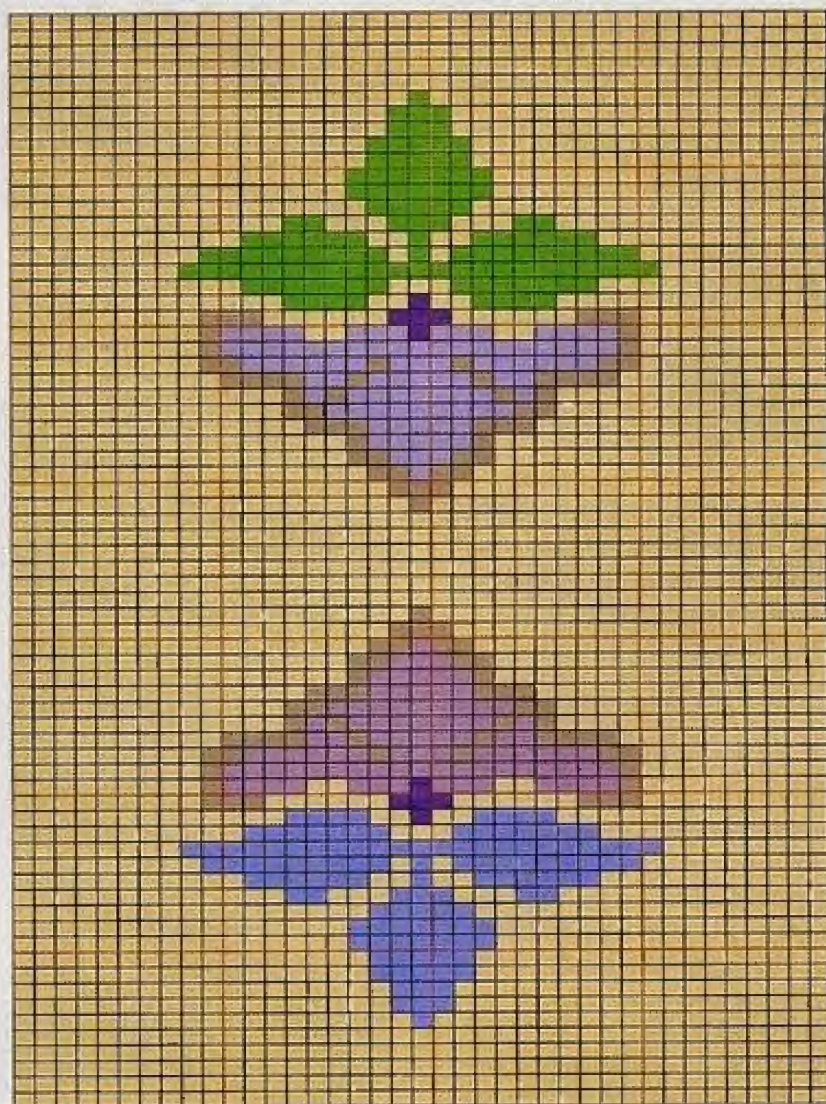
even (WS) rows from L to R. ➤

Lotus scarf

Add some blooms to your outfit with this gorgeous
intarsia scarf. Designed by Sasha Kagan

INTARSIA CHART

30 sts x 70 rows



Each square = st and 1 row

A B C D E F G

Read RS rows from R to L and WS rows from L to R





SCARF

Using 3.25mm needles and A, cast on 51 sts and work 6 rows moss st.

Change to 4mm needles and rep chart from bottom to top 7 times making the first 6 sts in moss st, follow graph from st 1 to st 39, moss st 6 sts.

Change to 3.25mm needles and work 6 rows moss st. Cast off in moss st.

TO FINISH OFF

Darn loose ends back into own colours.

Steam scarf to correct measurements.

With RS facing and B work shell st crochet edging as folls:

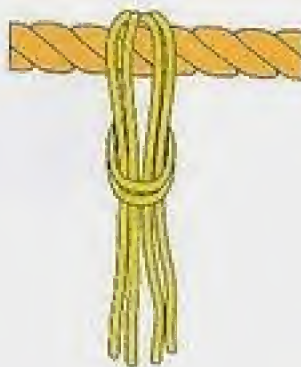
1 sl st, *miss 3 sts, 5 tr into next st, miss 3 sts, 1 sl st into next st; rep from * round 4 edges of scarf.

Make 14, 18cm (7in) long tassels and attach to top and bottom of scarf in between shells using photo as guide. ●

Tassels



Fold fringe lengths in half. Pull fold through edge.



Bring ends back through loop. Pull down to neaten and secure.

RKM WOOLS the knitting specialists

Spring into 2007 with www.rkmwools.co.uk and Wendy Wools



Wendy Design 5328

Design originally worked in shade 1818 Sky Blue Wendy Supreme Cotton DK.

Materials & Measurements					
To Fit Size	32/34	36/38	40/42	44/46	
Yarn Required					
Wendy Supreme Cotton DK 100g ball					
Cardigan	5	5	6	6	
Sweater	4	4	5	5	



Wendy Design 5331

Design originally worked in shade 1819 Mocha Wendy Supreme Cotton DK.

Materials & Measurements							
To Fit Size	30	32/34	36/38	40/42	44/46	48/50	
Yarn Required							
Wendy Supreme Cotton DK							
Open Stocking Rib Top	2	2	2	3	3	3	100g



Wendy Design 5329

Design originally worked in shade 1817 Teal Wendy Supreme Cotton DK.

Materials & Measurements							
To Fit Size	32	34	36	38	40	42	
Yarn Required							
Wendy Supreme Cotton DK							
Cross Over Cardigan	5	5	6	6	7	8	100g

Try these fabulous new Spring Designs knitted in Wendy Supreme Cotton DK
100% Mercerised Cotton - Machine Washable

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COTTON DK**

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Try Mode DK. The all new classic yarn for Spring 2007 by Wendy. Containing a blend of 50% Pure Merino and 50% Fine Acrylic, giving the yarn a beautifully soft handle and machine washable too!



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Recommended Retail Price £1.99 per 50g ball
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Order online at
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or give us a call on **01743 245623**

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Mainland addresses!
All major credit cards accepted



Getting started

SIZES

To fit: size 8-10

(adjustable for other sizes)

Waist measurement: 75cm (29.5in).

Length: 52cm (20.5in).

YOU WILL NEED

Rowan Cotton Glace 100% cotton
(115m per 50g ball)

3 x 50g balls in 818 Hot Lips (A)

5 x 50g balls in 815 Excite (B)

Jaeger Sienna 4 ply Cotton 100%
cotton (140m per 50g ball)

3 x balls in 418 Black (C)

1 pair 3.5mm needles

Note: Yarn amounts given are based
on average requirements and are
approximate.

FOR ROWAN

STOCKISTS CONTACT:

Green Lane Mill

Holmfirth

West Yorkshire

HD9 2DX

Tel: 01484 681 881

Email: mail@knitrowan.com

Website: www.knitrowan.com

TENSION

23 sts and 32 rows to 10 cm over st st
using 3.5mm needles

Use larger or smaller needles if
necessary to obtain correct tension.

ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 77

Skirt in the city

If you have great legs, like Sarah Jessica Parker,
flaunt them in this stylish purple panelled skirt.

Designed by Rossana Conti

KNITTING NOTES

The skirt is knitted in one piece lengthwise
with two row stripes and short row sections
to give fullness. It is knitted in st st with the
4 sts lower border in moss st in A.

For larger sizes just increase the number
of stripes and short row panels, keeping
the colour sequence.

SHORT ROW SHAPING

Follow chart for short row shaping, reading
RS rows from R to L and WS rows from L
to R, follow chart thus:

Commence shaping from R to L – so first
2 rows all sts worked.

Row 3: Work to last 20 sts, sl st 20 onto
LH needle, take yarn from front to back of
needle then sl st back (wrapping st).

Row 4: Work back to end of row.

Row 5: Work to last 40 sts, sl st 40 onto
LH needle, take yarn from front to back of
needle then sl st back (wrapping st).

Row 6: Work back to end of row.

Continue in this manner from chart for
short row sections.

MOSS STITCH

Row 1: *K1, p1, rep from * to end.

Row 2: *P1, k1, rep from * to end.

These 2 rows form moss stitch and are
rep over first (hem edge) 4 sts using
A throughout.

SKIRT

Using A cast on 120 sts work the first 4
sts in moss st (see notes) and the rem
116 sts in st st. The st st section is the
part that is short rowed and worked in
stripes thus:

2 rows in A

2 rows in B

Section in short row sequence following
chart in A

2 rows in A

2 rows in B

2 rows in A

2 rows in B

2 rows in A

Section in short row sequence following
chart in B

2 rows in B

2 rows in C

2 rows in B

2 rows in C

2 rows in B

Section in short row sequence following
chart in C

2 rows in C

2 rows in B

2 rows in C

2 rows in B

2 rows in C

Section in short row sequence following ➤



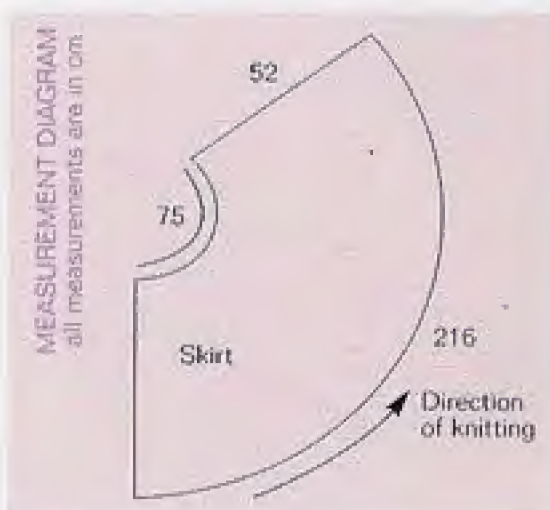
chart in B
 2 rows in B
 2 rows in A
 2 rows in B
 Rep this sequence 4 times in all
 2 rows in A
 2 rows in B
 Short rows section in A
 2 rows in A
 2 rows in B
 2 rows in A
 2 rows in B
 2 rows in A
 Short rows section in B
 2 rows in B
 2 rows in A
 2 rows in B
 Cast off all the sts

WAISTBAND

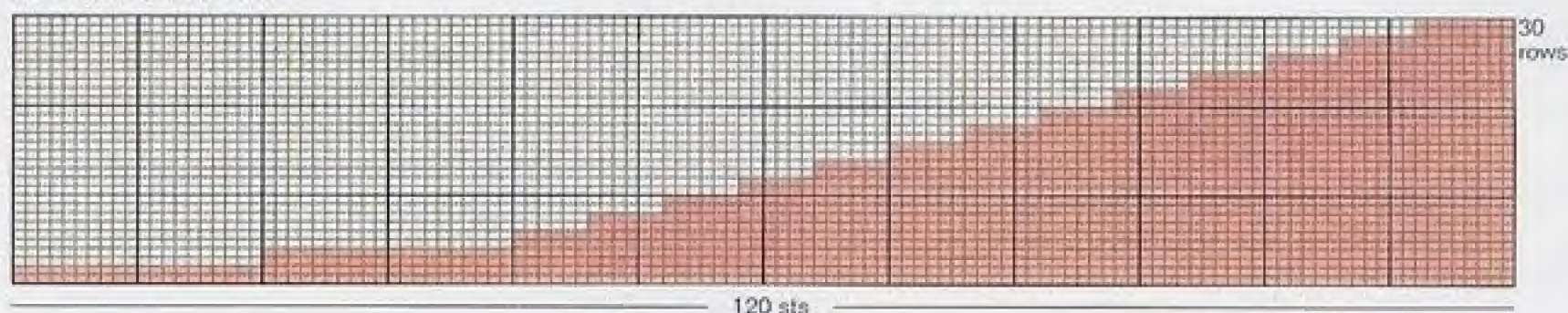
Using C pick up 170 sts at waist edge and k1 row on WS. Knit 9 rows in st st, 1 row knit on WS and 10 rows in st st, cast off.

TO FINISH OFF

Carefully backstitch the two sides together, leaving half of the waistband open, then fold the waistband in half at the purl row and slip stitch down, taking care not to pull too tightly. Insert the elastic inside the waistband then sew the gap. ●



SHORT ROW CHART



□ Stitches not being knitted on this particular row ■ Stitches to be worked
 Each square = 1 st and 1 row. Work RS rows from R to L and WS rows from L to R

PROJECT: Ultimate
Floor Standing Lamp
- D21077

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adjustable tray

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- for fine details

with dust
cover

Height adjustable
with new click
system

Flexible
clip
holder

NEW stable
floor base

stylish lamp shade

Created for crafters - designed by craftsmen

This lamp may have started as an inspired concept, but it has taken over a year in development to create it.

It's been through exhaustive design reviews and prodded and poked by focus groups. That's why the lamp is height adjustable with a unique new lock system. And we have taken on board suggestions from crafters like you. That's where we came up with the height adjustable tray with dust cover.

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Also available as a stylish
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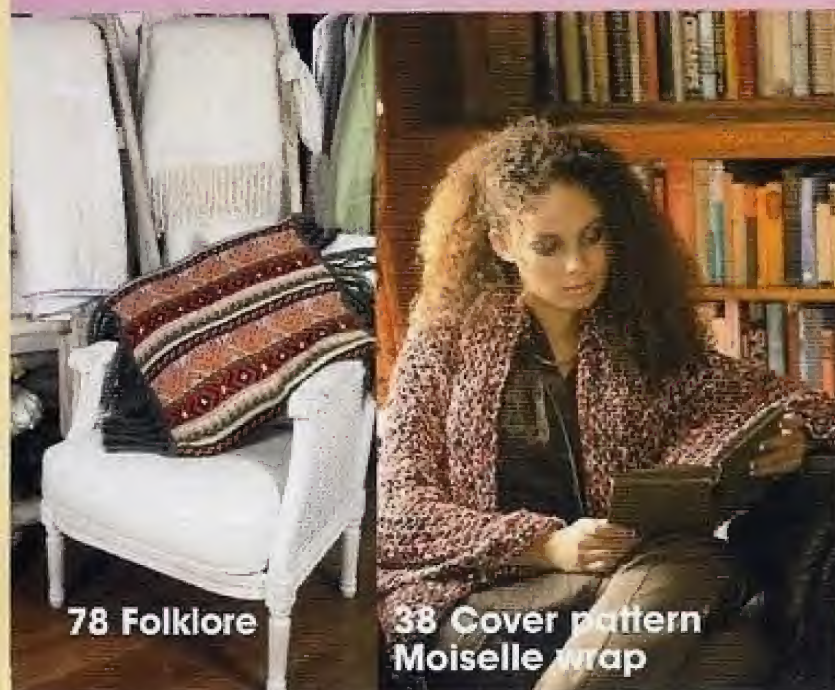


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Getting Started

SIZES

Actual measurement:

Approx 65 x 185cm (25.5 x 73in).

YOU WILL NEED

Wendy Moisselle

51% acrylic, 40% nylon,
9% wool (55m per 50g ball)
11 x 50g balls in 757
1 pair 7.5mm needles

Note: Yarn amounts given are based on average requirements and are approximate.

FOR WENDY STOCKISTS CONTACT

Wendy Wools
Thomas Ramsden Group
Netherfield Road
Guisley, West Yorkshire
LS20 9PD
Tel: 01943 872 264
Email: sales@tbramsden.co.uk
Website: www.wendywools.co.uk

TENSION

Not critical.

ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 77



Moisselle wrap



You'll race through
this easy one-row wrap
as fast as
a good novel.

Designed by
Elaine Starck

WRAP

Cast on 67 sts.

Pattern row: k1* yf k2tog repeat from
* to end.

Rep patt row until work measures 185cm
(73in) or desired length. Cast off.

TO FINISH OFF

Weave in cast on and cast off ends
neatly and securely. ●



Getting started

SIZES

To fit child to adult chest/bust:
66-71[76-81:86-91:97-102:107-112]cm
(26-28[30-32:34-36:38-40:42-44]in)

Actual measurement:

71[81:92:103:114]cm
(28[32:36:40.5:45]in).

Length: 39[47:55:58:62]cm
(15.5[18.5:22:23:24.5]in).

Sleeve seam: 37[42:46:46:47]cm
(14.5[16.5:18:18:18.5]in).

Figures in square brackets refer to larger sizes, where there is only one set of figures this applies to all sizes.

YOU WILL NEED

Sirdar Click 30% Wool,
70% Microfibre (75m per 50g)
Cowl neck 5[7:9:10:11] x 50g balls
in 144 Downy.
Round neck 5[6:8:9:10] x 50g balls
in 148 Bud.

1 pair 8mm needles
2 stitch holders

Note: Yarn amounts given are based on average requirements and are approximate.

FOR SIRDAR STOCKISTS CONTACT:

Sirdar Spinning Ltd
Flanshaw Lane
Wakefield
West Yorkshire
WF2 9ND
Tel: 01924 371 501
Email: enquiries@sirdar.co.uk
Website: www.sirdar.co.uk

TENSION

11 sts and 15 rows to 10cm over st st using 8mm needles.
Use larger or smaller needles if necessary to obtain correct tension.

ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 77

Click sweater

Neutrals are big this season and Sirdar's creamy cowl neck jumper just goes to prove it.

BACK

Using 8mm needles and thumb method, cast on 39[45:51:57:63] sts.
Starting with a knit row, work in st st throughout. Work until back measures 23[29:35:36:38]cm, (9[11.5:14:14:15]in), ending with a WS row.

SHAPE ARMHOLES

Work 3[4:5:6:8] rows, dec 1 st at each end of every row. 33[37:41:45:47] sts. **
Cont without shaping until armholes measure 16[18:20:22:24]cm, (6[7:8:9:9.5]in), ending with a WS row.

SHAPE SHOULDERS

Cast off 4[5:5:6:6] sts at beg of next 2 rows. 25[27:31:33:35] sts.
Cast off 4[5:6:7:7] sts at beg of next 2 rows. 17[17:19:19:21] sts. ***
Cast off rem 17[17:19:19:21] sts.

FRONT

Work as given for back to **.
Cont without shaping until armholes

measure 8[10:11:13:14]cm, (3[4:4:5:5.5]in), ending with a WS row.

SHAPE NECK

Next row: K13[15:16:18:19], turn, leave rem 20[22:25:27:28] sts on a stitch holder. Working on these 13[15:16:18:19] sts only work thus:

Next row: Purl.

Work 2 rows dec 1 st at neck edge in every row. 11[13:14:16:17] sts. Work 3[3:3:3:5] rows dec 1 st at neck edge in next and every foll alt row. 9[11:12:14:14] sts. Work 4 rows dec 1 st at neck edge in 4th row. 8[10:11:13:13] sts.

Cont without shaping until armhole measures 16[18:20:22:24]cm, 6[7:8:9:9.5]in), ending with a WS row.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Next row: Cast off 4[5:5:6:6] sts, knit to end. 4[5:6:7:7] sts.

Next row: Purl.

Cast off rem 4[5:6:7:7] sts.
With RS facing, working on rem





20[22:25:27:28] sts, slip 7[7:9:9:9] sts onto a stitch holder, rejoin yarn to rem 13[15:16:18:19] sts and knit to end.

Next row: Purl.

Work 2 rows dec 1 st at neck edge in every row. 11[13:14:16:17] sts. Work 3[3:3:3:5] rows dec 1 st at neck edge in next and every foll alt row. 9[11:12:14:14] sts. Work 4 rows dec 1 st at neck edge in 4th row. 8[10:11:13:13] sts.

Cont without shaping until armhole measures 16[18:20:22:24]cm, (6[7:8:9:9.5]in), ending with a RS row.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Next row: Cast off 4[5:5:6:6] sts, purl to end. 4[5:6:7:7] sts.

Next row: Knit.

Cast off rem 4[5:6:7:7] sts.

SLEEVE

Using 8mm needles and thumb method cast on 25[25:27:27:29] sts. Working in st st (throughout) inc 1 st at each end of 21st[23rd:25th:25th:25th] and every foll 14th[8th:8th:6th:4th] row until 31[31:39:37:37] sts.

2nd, 4th and 5th sizes only:

Inc 1 st at each end of every foll [10th:8th:6th] row until [35:41:47] sts.

All sizes: Work straight until sleeve measures 37[42:46:46:47]cm, (14.5[16.5:18:18:18.5]in), or length required, ending with a WS row.

SHAPE TOP

Work 3[4:5:6:8] rows dec 1 st at each end of every row. 25[27:29:29:31] sts. Work 1[0:1:0:0] rows more without shaping.

Cast off 2[2:4:4:6] sts at beg of next 4[2:6:6:2] rows. 17[23:5:5:19] sts.

1st, 2nd and 5th sizes only:

Cast off 3[3:7] sts at beg of next 4[6:2] rows. 5[5:5] sts.

All sizes: Cast off rem 5 sts.

COWL NECK

Join R shoulder seam. With RS facing, using 8mm needles pick up and knit 16[16:18:18:20] sts evenly along L side of



neck, 7[7:9:9:9] sts left on a stitch holder at front of neck, 16[16:18:18:20] sts evenly along R side of neck and 17[17:19:19:21] sts from back of neck. 56[56:64:64:70] sts.

Row 1: K1, * yf, st, k1, pssso, rep from * to last st, k1.

1st row sets patt. Keeping continuity of patt as set (throughout) cont until cowl neck measures 16[18:20:20:20]cm, (6[7:8:8:8]in), ending with a WS row. Cast off in patt.

TO FINISH OFF

Join left shoulder and cowl neck seams, reversing sewing for cowl neck. Fold sleeves in half lengthways, then placing folds to shoulder seams, sew sleeves in position. Join side and sleeve seams. Pin out garment to the measurement given on front page. Cover with damp cloths and leave until dry. See ball band for washing and further care instructions.

ROUND NECK SWEATER

BACK

Work as given for cowl neck sweater to ***.

Leave rem 17[17:19:19:21] sts on a stitch holder.

FRONT

Work as given for cowl neck sweater.

SLEEVES

Work as given for cowl neck sweater.

NECK EDGING

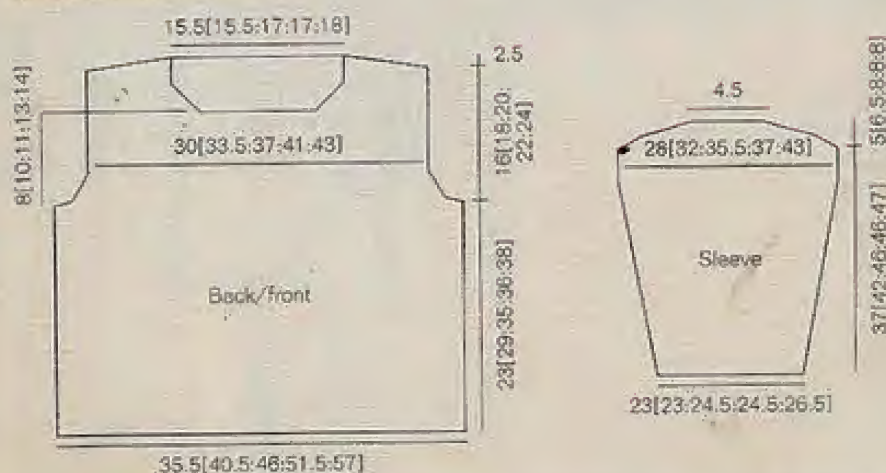
Join right shoulder seam. With RS facing, using 8mm needles pick up and knit 16[16:18:18:20] sts evenly along L side of neck, 7[7:9:9:9] sts left on a stitch holder at front of neck, 16[16:18:18:20] sts evenly along R side of neck and 17[17:19:19:21] sts left on a stitch holder at back of neck. 56[56:64:64:70] sts. Cast off k-wise.

TO FINISH OFF

Join left shoulder and neck edging seam. Fold sleeves in half lengthways, then placing folds to shoulder seams, sew sleeves in position. Join side and sleeve seams. Pin out garment to correct measurements. Cover with damp cloths and leave until dry. See ball band for washing and further care instructions. ●

MEASUREMENT DIAGRAM

all measurements are in inches



Getting started

SIZES

To fit ages:

0-3[3-6:6-9:9-12:12-24] months

Actual measurement:

46[51:55:60:64]cm (18[20:22:24:25]in)

Length: 23[25:28:30:32]cm

(9[10:11:12:12.5]in)

Sleeve seam: 11[13:15:17:20]cm

(4.5[5:6:6.5:8]in)

Figures in square brackets refer to larger sizes, where there is only one set of figures this applies to all sizes.

YOU WILL NEED

Debbie Bliss Cashmerino Aran

55% Merino wool, 33% Microfibre,

12% Cashmere (90m per 50g ball)

4[4:5:5:6] x 50g balls in 603 Pale Pink

1 pair 5mm knitting needles

Long circular 4.5mm and 5mm

knitting needles

Optional decorative fastening

Note: Yarn amounts given are based on average requirements and are approximate.

FOR DEBBIE BLISS STOCKISTS CONTACT:

Designer Yarns Ltd

Units 8-10

Newbridge Industrial Estate

Pitt Street

Keighley

West Yorkshire

BD21 4PQ

Tel: 01535 664 222

Website: www.designeryarns.uk.com

TENSION

18 sts and 24 rows to 10cm square over st st using 5mm needles

Use larger or smaller needles if necessary to obtain correct tension.

ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 77

Ribbed Jacket

Put your poppet in this super-soft
Cashmerino Aran jacket for a touch of luxury.
Designed by Debbie Bliss

BACK, FRONT AND SLEEVES

(worked in one piece)

Using 5mm needles, cast on

44[48:52:56:60] sts. Beg with a knit row,

work 32[34:38:40:44] rows in st st.

Change to 5mm circular needle.

SHAPE SLEEVES

Cast on 5[6:7:8:9] sts at beg of next 8

rows. 84[96:108:120:132] sts. Work a

further 16[18:22:24:26] rows.

DIVIDE FOR FRONTS

Next row: K34 [40:45:51:56] sts, leave these sts on a spare needle, cast off next 16[16:18:18:20] sts, knit to end.

Cont on last set of 34[40:45:51:56] sts only for L front.

Work a further 16[18:22:24:26] rows, so ending at sleeve edge.

SHAPE SLEEVE

Cast off 5[6:7:8:9] sts at beg of next and 3 foll alt rows. 14[16:17:19:20] sts. Work 32[34:38:40:44] rows in st st. Cast off.

With WS facing, rejoin yarn to rem sts on

spare needle for R front, purl to end. Work a further 17[19:23:25:27] rows, so ending at sleeve edge.

SHAPE SLEEVE

Cast off 5[6:7:8:9] sts at beg of next and 3 foll alt rows. 14[16:17:19:20] sts.

Work 32[34:38:40:44] rows in st st.

Cast off.

EDGING

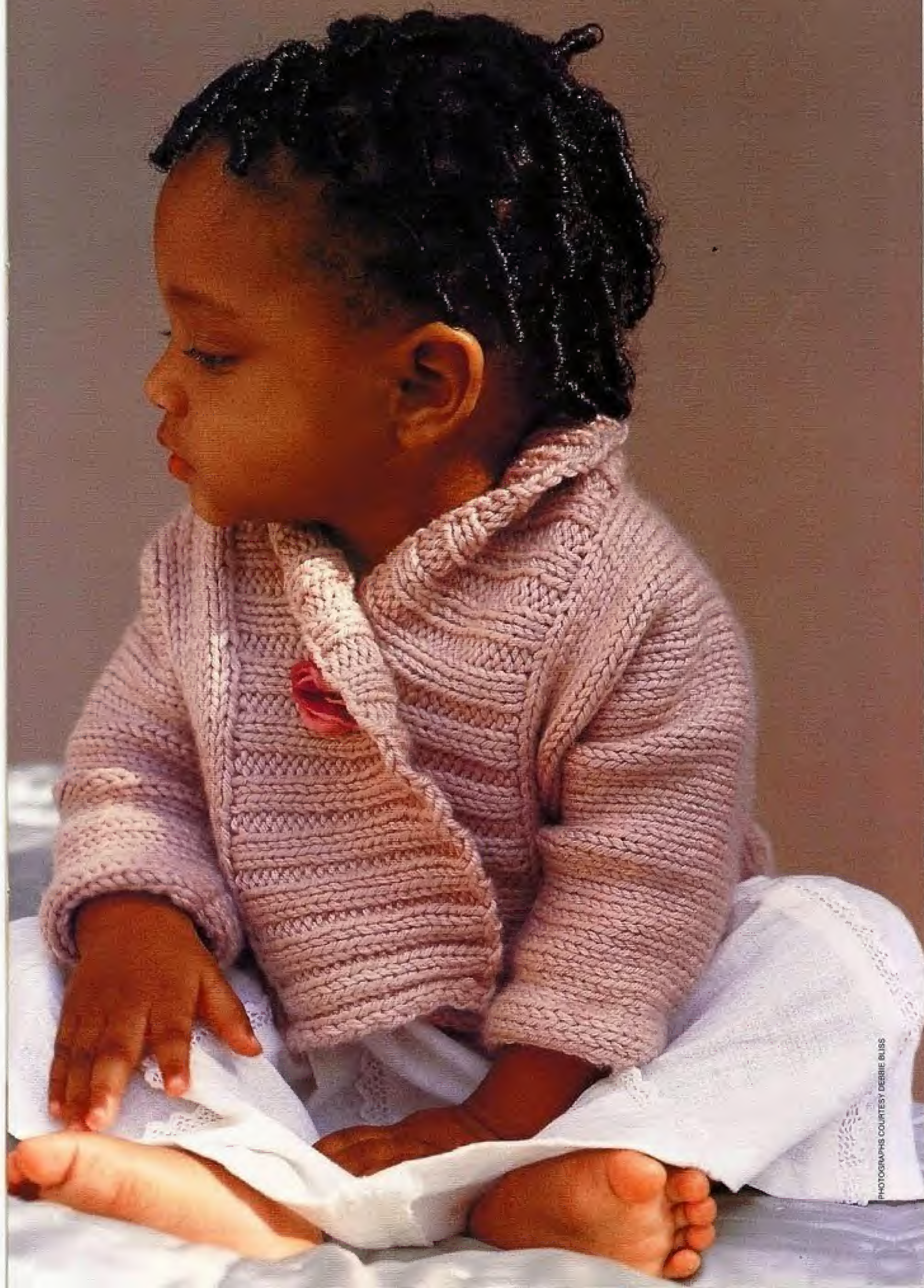
With RS facing and 4.5mm circular needle, pick up and k46[50:54:58:62] sts evenly up R front, 22[22:26:26:30] sts evenly down L front. 114[122:134:142:154] sts.

Row 1: (WS): P2, * k2, p2; rep from * to end.

Row 2: K2, * p2, k2; rep from * to end. Rep the last 2 rows for 8[8:9:9:10]cm, (3[3:3.5:3.5:4]in) ending with a 2nd row. Cast off loosely but evenly in rib.

TO FINISH OFF

Join side and sleeve seams.



More Patterns



Ribbed jacket comes from *Special Knits* - 22 gorgeous handknits for babies by Debbie Bliss, £14.99, ISBN 1-84340-392-7, now published in paperback by Collins & Brown, part of Anova Books. Website: www.anovabooks.com

Also available
from Special Knits



Top: Eyelet Vest
Bottom: Hooded sweater



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Debbie Bliss

Slimline Jacket from 'Out of Town' Yarn: Cashmerino Aranman (shade 20)

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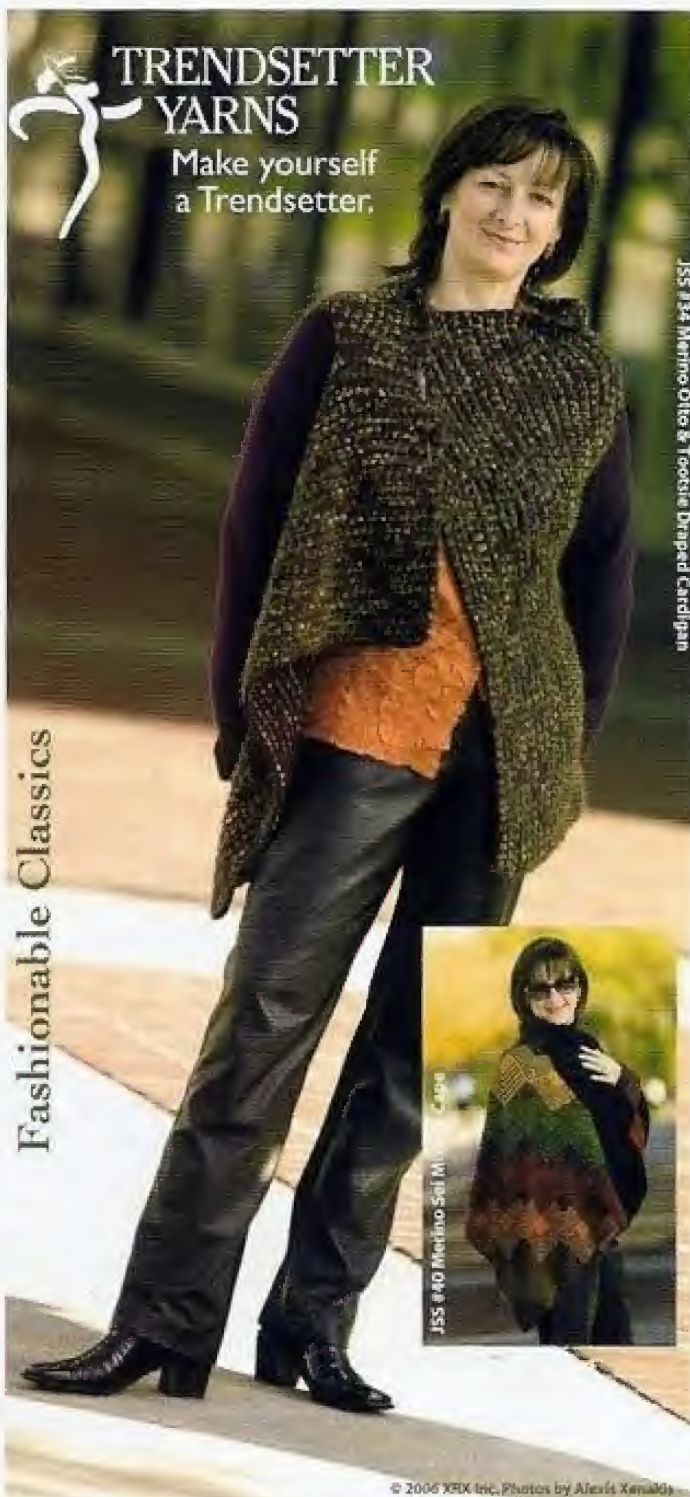
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34 Skirt in the city



52 Vintage car coat



64 Brighton Rock bag



30 Lotus scarf



10 Lucy Lamb



26 Attitude

knitting Patterns

DIY KNIT

10 Lucy Lamb
Cute and cuddly sheep

FASHION KNIT

26 Attitude
Man's casual jumper

FASHION KNIT

30 Lotus scarf
Intarsia floral wrap

FASHION KNIT

34 Skirt in the city
Purple panelled skirt

QUICK KNIT

38 Moisselle wrap
Easy one-row throw

FASHION KNIT

40 Click sweater
Classically neutral jumper

MINI KNIT

44 Ribbed jacket
Pretty pink knit by Debbie Bliss

MINI KNIT

48 Cheeky dungaree dress & purse
Kokobino pattern for girls

MINI KNIT

52 Vintage car coat
Timeless design by Sublime

QUICK KNIT

64 Brighton Rock
Stripy felted shoulder bag

HOME KNIT

78 Folklore
Kelim style floor cushion

HOME KNIT

82 Viennese tablecloth
Simple project for spring dining



82 Tablecloth



48 Cheeky dungaree dress & purse

Getting started

SIZES

To fit: 1-2[2-3-4] years

Chest: 51[56-61]cm (20[22-24]in)

Actual measurement at waist: 54[59-65]cm (21.5[23-25.5]in).

Length: 43[51-55]cm (17[20-21.5]in).

Purse actual: 10 x 13cm (4 x 5 in)

Figures in square brackets refer to larger sizes, where there is only one set of figures this applies to all sizes.

YOU WILL NEED

Kokobino pure cashmere DK

Pure Extra Fine Merino

(60m per 25g ball)

7 x 25 gram balls in 004 Cherry Twist (A)

1 x 25g balls in 005 Peppermint

Fondant (B)

1 pair in each of 3.25mm, 3.75mm and

4mm bamboo needles

6 buttons

Ribbon

Sewing-up needle

Note: Yarn amounts given are based on average requirements and are approximate.

FOR KOKOBINO STOCKISTS CONTACT KOKOBINO ONLINE STORE

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TENSION

Dress: 22 sts and 30 rows to 10 cm over st st using 4mm needles.

Purse: 22 sts and 40 rows to 10 cm over g-st using 3.75mm needles. Use larger or smaller needles if necessary to obtain correct tension.

ABBREVIATIONS

sL1k = slip 1 k-ways

FOR MORE ABBREVIATIONS AND TIPS SEE PAGE 73

Cheeky

dungaree dress with purse

Your little tomboy will love this hipster dungaree dress and matching purse.

Designed by Catherine Tough

BACK

Using 3.25mm needles, cast on 83[89-95] sts. Work in g-st for 10 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Change to 4mm needles.

Starting with a knit row, work in st st for 8 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Next row: (RS), K1, (k12[13-14], sL1k, k2tog, pssso, k12[13-14]) 3 times, k1 (77[83-89] sts).

Work 15[21-27] rows.

Next row: (K1, (k11[12-13], sL1k, k2tog, pssso, k11[12-13]) 3 times, k1 (71[77-83] sts).

Work 15[21-27] rows.

Next row: (K1, (k10[11-12], sL1k, k2tog, pssso, k10[11-12]) 3 times, k1 (65[71-77] sts).

Work 15[21-27] rows.

Next row: (K1, (k9[10-11], sL1k, k2tog, pssso, k9[10-11]) 3 times, k1 (59[65-71] sts).

Work 11[11-5] rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Place markers at both ends of last row to denote top of side seams.**

SHAPE SIDE OPENING UNDERLAYS

Next row: (RS), cast on and k 5 sts, k to end.

Next row: Cast on 5 sts then k3, p2 across these 5 sts, purl to last 3 sts, k3 (69[75-81] sts).

Next row: (RS), Knit.

Next row: K3, purl to last 3 sts, k3. Rep last 2 rows 5 times more, ending with RS facing for next row. Change to 3.75mm needles.

Work in g-st for 10 rows, ending with RS facing for next row. Cast off.

FRONT

Work as given for back to **.

SHAPE SIDE OPENING BORDERS

Next row: (RS), Knit.

Next row: K5, purl to last 5 sts, k5. Rep last 2 rows 6 times more, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE WAISTBAND

Row 1: (RS), Knit.

Row 2: K15[15-17], purl to last 15[15-17] sts, knit to end.

These 2 rows set the sts - 15[15-17] sts at each end of rows in g-st with centre sts still in st-st. Keeping sts correct as set, work 2 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Row 5: K2, k2tog, yf, k to last 4 sts, yf, k2tog, k2.

Work a further 5 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

SHAPE BIB

Keeping sts correct as set, cast off 10[10-12] sts at beg of next 2 rows (39[45-47] sts).

Next row: (RS), k5, sL1k, k1, pssso, knit to last 7 sts, k2tog, k5.

Next row: K5, purl to last 5 sts, k5. Rep last 2 rows twice more (33[39-41] sts).

Next row: (RS), K5, sL1k, k1, pssso, knit to last 7 sts, k2tog, k5.

Next row: K5, purl to last 5 sts, k5.

Next row: Knit.

Next row: K5, purl to last 5 sts, k5. Rep last 4 rows 1[3-3] times more (29[31-33] sts).

Next row: (RS), K5, sL1k, k1, pssso, knit to last 7 sts, k2tog, k5 (27[29-31] sts).

Next row: K5, purl to last 5 sts, k5. Change to 3.75mm needles. Work in g-st for 9 rows, ending with WS facing for next row.

SHAPE FOR STRAPS

Next row: (WS), K6 and slip these 6 sts onto a holder, cast off next 15[17-19] sts k-ways, knit to end.

Cont on this set of 6 sts only for first strap. ➤



***Work in g-st until strap measures 20[25:27]cm (8[10:10.5]in), ending with RS facing for next row.

Next row: (RS), K1, k2tog, yf, k2tog, k1.

Next row: K2, inc in next st, k2. Work 10 rows.

Rep last 12 rows once more, then first 2 of these rows again.

Work 7 rows, ending with WS facing for next row.

Cast off k-ways (on WS).

RS facing, rejoin yarn to 6 sts left on holder for second strap and complete to match first strap from ***.

POCKET

Using 3.75mm needles, cast on 6[8:10] sts. Work in g-st for 2 rows, ending with RS facing for next row.

Row 3: (RS), inc in first st, k to last 2 sts, inc in next st, k1 (8[10:12] sts).

Row 4: Knit.

Rows 5 to 10: As rows 3 and 4, 3 times (14[16:18] sts).

Cont straight in g-st until pocket

measures 6[7:8]cm (2.5[3:3]in), ending with WS facing for next row. Cast off k-ways (on WS).

TO FINISH OFF

Press carefully following instructions on ball band. Join side seams below markers. Sew cast-on edge of back side opening underlays in place on inside. Attach buttons to back side opening underlays to correspond with buttonholes in front waistband. Attach 2 buttons to WS of back waistband, positioning them 12[13:14]cm (5[5.5:5.5]in) apart. Fasten straps over these buttons, crossing them at back. Attach rem button through both straps at point where they cross over at back. Using photograph as a guide, sew pocket onto front.

MATCHING PURSE

Using 3.75mm needles and A, cast on 30 sts. Work in striped g-st of 4 rows A, 4 rows B throughout.

Cont in striped g-st for a further 68 rows, ending after 4 rows of the 10th stripe using A and with RS facing for next row.

Place markers at both ends of last row.

SHAPE FLAP

Work a further 6 rows, ending after 2 rows of the 11th stripe using A and with RS facing for next row.

Keeping stripes correct, dec 1 st at each end of next and foll 2 alt rows (24 sts).

Work 1 row, ending after 4 rows using B and with RS facing for next row.

Next row: (RS), using A k2tog, k8, k2tog, (yf) twice, k2tog, k8, k2tog (22 sts).

Next row: Using A, k10, k into front and back of double yf of previous row, k10.

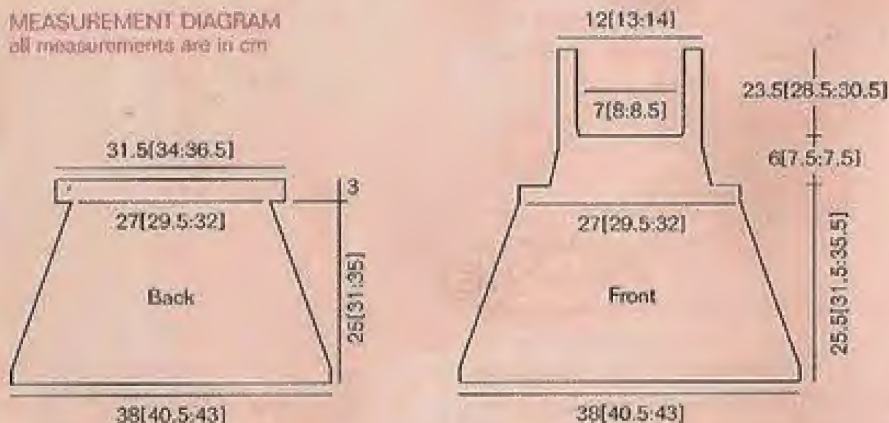
Cont in striped garter st, dec 1 st at each end of next 5 rows, ending after 3 rows of the 12th stripe using B and with WS facing for next row. Cast off rem 12 sts k-ways (on WS).

TO FINISH OFF

Do not press. Fold purse so that ends of cast-on edge match markers along row-end edges and sew side seams. Sew on button to correspond with buttonhole in flap section. Sew ribbon to each side of purse to form strap. ●



MEASUREMENT DIAGRAM
all measurements are in cm



More Kokobino patterns

This dungaree dress was designed exclusively for Kokobino and is sold as a kit. For more patterns in the range, visit www.kokobino.com



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Getting started

SIZES

To fit chest:

41[46:51:56]cm (16[18:20:22]in)

Actual measurement:

46[50:54:60]cm (18[19.5:21:23.5]in).

Length:

22[26:30:36]cm

(8.5[10:12:14]in).

Sleeve seam:

15[17:20:24]cm

(6[6.5:8:9.5]in).

Figures in square brackets refer to larger sizes, where there is only one set of figures this applies to all sizes.

YOU WILL NEED

Sublime baby cashmere

merino silk DK 75% extra fine

Merino, 20% silk, 5% cashmere

(116m per 50g ball)

3[3:4:5] x 50g balls in 006 Pebble.

1 pair each of 3.25mm and 4mm knitting needles.

2 stitch holders.

7 buttons.

Note: Yarn amounts given are based on average requirements and are approximate.

FOR SUBLIME STOCKISTS CONTACT:

Sublime

Flanshaw Lane

Wakefield, West Yorkshire

WF2 9ND

Tel: 01924 371 501

Email: contactus@sublimeyarns.com

Website: www.sublimeyarns.com

TENSION

22 sts and 28 rows to 10cm measured over st st using 4mm needles.

Use larger or smaller needles if necessary to obtain correct tension.

ABBREVIATIONS

Wrap 1 = slip next st onto RH needle and take yarn to opposite side of work between needles, slip same st back onto LH needle

FOR MORE ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 77

TIPS

Circle the size you wish to make.

Vintage Car Coat

This classically cute jacket is from
Sublime book 600
in baby cashmere merino silk DK

BACK

Using 4mm needles cast on

50[56:60:66] sts.

Starting with a knit row, work in st st until back measures 22[26:30:36]cm,

(9[10:12:14]in), finishing with a WS row.

SHAPE SHOULDERS

Cast off 9[10:10:12] sts at beg of next

4[4:2:4] rows. 14[16:40:18] sts.

3rd size only: Cast off 11 sts at beg of next 2 rows. 18 sts.

All sizes: Cast off rem 14[16:18:18] sts.

LEFT FRONT

Using 4mm needles cast on

29[32:34:37] sts.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: K8, slip these 8 sts onto a stitch holder (you will come back to these sts later for L front border), purl to end. 21[24:26:29] sts.

Cont in st st and work until L front measures 19[22:26:31]cm,

(7.5[8.5:10:12]in), finishing with a WS row.

SHAPE NECK

Next row: Knit to last 2 sts, k2tog (neck edge). 20[23:25:28] sts.

Next row: (P2tog) 0[1:1:1] times, purl to end. 20[22:24:27] sts.

Work 3[3:5:5] rows, dec 1 st at neck edge in next and every foll alt row until 18[20:21:24] sts. Work straight until L front measures same as back to shoulder shaping.

SHAPE SHOULDER

Next row: Cast off 9[10:10:12] sts, knit to end.

Next row: Purl.

Cast off rem 9[10:11:12] sts.

RIGHT FRONT

Using 4mm needles cast on

29[32:34:37] sts.

Row 1: Knit.

Row 2: Purl to last 8 sts, slip these 8 sts onto a stitch holder (you will come back to these sts later for the right front border), turn.

Cont in st st and work until R front



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sts. Break off yarn.

With RS of work facing, rejoin yarn to 22[22:23:23] sts left on a stitch holder for R side of cuff, (inc in 1st st) 0[1:1:1] times, knit to last 5 sts, then with the needle holding the sts for L side of cuff behind these 5 sts, (knit tog 1 st from R side of cuff and 1 st from L side of cuff) 5 times, knit across the next 17[15:16:16] sts on L side of cuff, (inc in next st) 0[1:1:1] times, k0[1:1:1], 39[41:43:43] sts.

Next row: Purl.

Work as given for the L sleeve from **.

RIGHT FRONT BORDER

Using 3.25mm needles cast on 1 st (this cast on st will be used for sewing the border to the front), then with WS of work facing, knit across the 8 sts left on a stitch holder for R front, 9 sts.

Cont in g-st (each row knit) until border is long enough to reach the neck shaping when slightly stretched, finishing after a WS row. Leave these 9 sts on a stitch holder. (You will come back to these sts later for the collar.) Mark positions for 3 buttons, the first one to be placed 4cm, (1.5in) from top of border and last one 7[9:10:12]cm, (3[3.5:4:5]in) from lower edge, the rem button evenly spaced between these two. Do not break off yarn.

LEFT FRONT BORDER

Using 3.25mm needles cast on 1 st (this cast on st will be used for sewing the border to the front), then with RS facing, knit across the 8 sts left on a stitch holder for L front border, 9 sts. Cont in g-st until L front border measures exactly the same as the R front border finishing with a WS row working buttonholes to correspond with the markers on R front border thus: Buttonhole row: (RS) K4, yf, k2tog, k3. Leave these 9 sts on a stitch holder.

COLLAR

Join both shoulder seams then using 3.25mm needle pick up sts around neck shaping thus: With RS facing work across 9 sts left on a stitch holder for R front border: k7, k2tog, pick up and k14[14:14:18] sts evenly up R side of neck, 14[16:18:18] sts from back of neck, 14[14:14:18] sts evenly down L side of neck and work across the sts left on a stitch holder for L front border thus: k2tog, k7, 58[60:62:70] sts.

Next row: K18[19:18:22] sts (in next st,

k1) 5[5:6:6] times, (inc in next st) twice, (k1, inc in next st) 5[5:6:6] times, k18[19:18:22], 70[72:76:84] sts. Work 21 rows g-st.

Next row: K17[18:20:24], inc in next st, (k6[6:6:4], inc in next st) 5[5:5:7] times, k17[18:20:24], 76[78:82:92] sts. Cast off.

TO FINISH OFF

Fold sleeves in half lengthways, then

placing folds to shoulder seams, sew sleeves in position for approximately 11[12:13:14]cm, (4[5:5:5]in) from top of shoulder. Join side and sleeve seams. Sew front borders in position (using cast on sts). Sew on buttons. Pin out garment to correct measurements, cover with damp cloths until dry. See ball band for washing and further care instructions. ●





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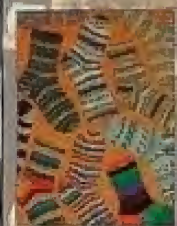
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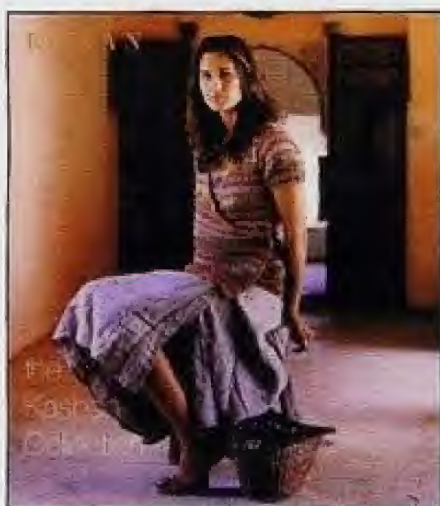
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This month don't knit without...

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3



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Yarn Review

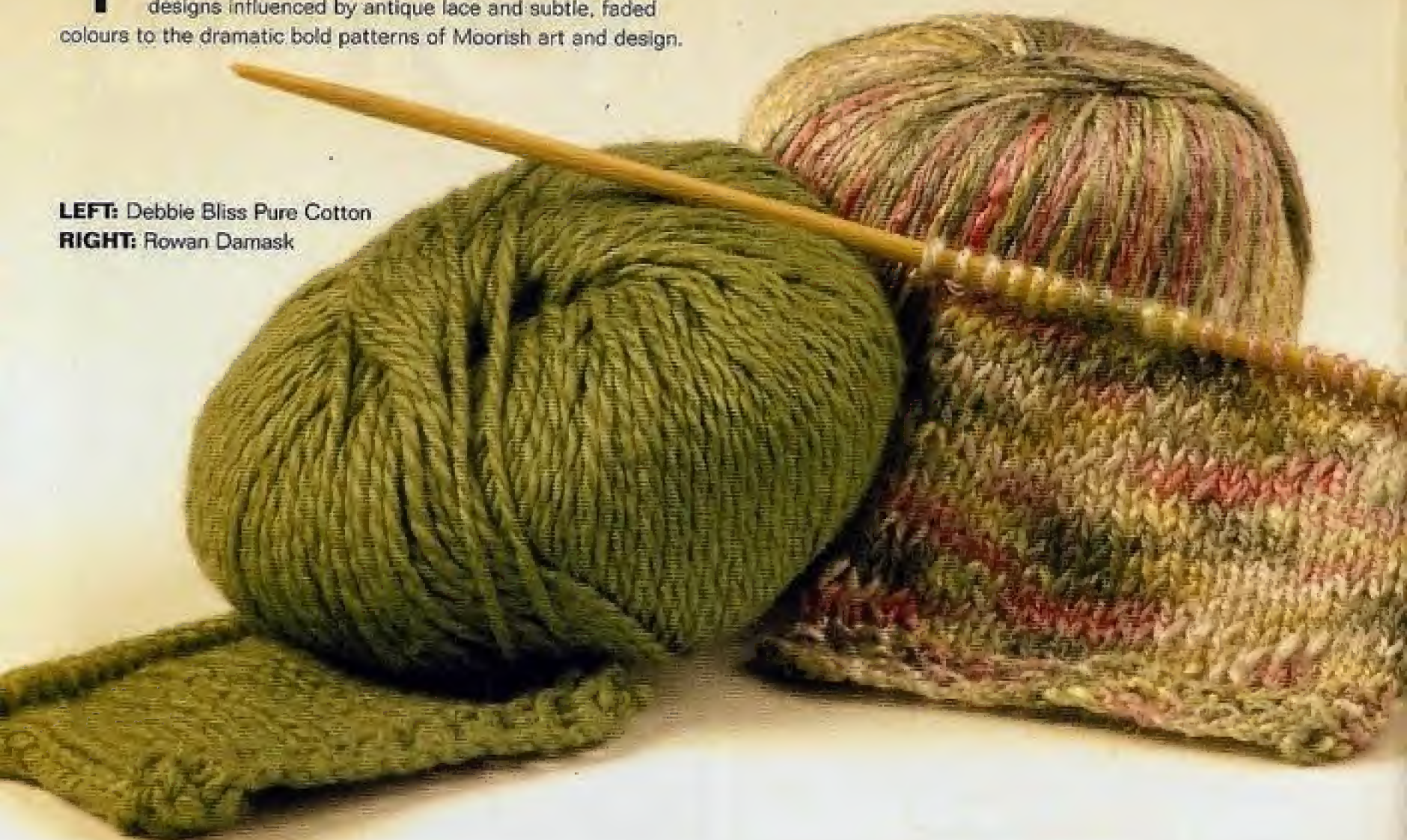
Step into Spring

Sue Pearce tests out the new yarns for spring and summer with a mix of exciting blends and classic natural fibres.

There is an emphasis on soft and silky yarns in shimmering shades that are cool and comfortable to wear. The supporting patterns vary from soft, romantic designs influenced by antique lace and subtle, faded colours to the dramatic bold patterns of Moorish art and design.

LEFT: Debbie Bliss Pure Cotton

RIGHT: Rowan Damask





Yarn Review



**MISSION FALLS
1824 COTTON**
COMPOSITION: 100% Cotton
WEIGHT: 50g
LENGTH: 77m
REC NEEDLE SIZE: 4.5mm
RRP: £4.65

Mission Falls yarns and pattern books have been well loved in Canada and the USA for some time, so it is great that they're now available in the UK and proving to be very popular – we sold out of our first delivery at Kangaroo within a week! 1824 Cotton consists of a twisted strand of soft cotton that knits into a lovely, pebbly texture. Easy to knit with and soft to handle, it has a tension similar to an Aran weight with 18 sts and 24 rows to 10cm. There are over 30 shades, ranging from the soft, earthy tones of Musk, Lichen and Lentil to vibrant shades of Cardinal Red and Cosmos. The sample is shown in 206 Peony. The pattern support by Mags Kandis comes in a range of designs that are both sophisticated and down to earth. 1824 is also available in a pure wool version that knits to the same tension as the cotton. This is interchangeable with the cotton and either yarn may be used for any of the Mission Falls pattern books. 1824 Wool is approximately £5.25 per 50g ball.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY GIANCANTHONY BAILEY



**DEBBIE BLISS
RIALTO**
COMPOSITION: 100% Merino Wool
WEIGHT: 50g
LENGTH: 105m
REC NEEDLE SIZE: 4mm
RRP: £3.95

This is a superb, rounded yarn that is super-soft to handle and beautiful to knit with, resulting in a clear stitch definition and smooth surface that even the most sensitive skins should be able to wear. **Rialto** knits up into gently structured garments that look equally good in plain stocking stitch or fancy cables. Available in a range of 20 clear shades that include neutrals, soft pastels and bold brights, the sample is shown in shade 11. The tension is 22 sts and 30 rows to 10cm and the yarn can be used with most standard DK patterns. There will also be a new book of patterns by Debbie Bliss to support the yarn.



**DEBBIE BLISS
PURE COTTON**
COMPOSITION: 100% Cotton
WEIGHT: 50g
LENGTH: 82m
REC NEEDLE SIZE: 5mm
RRP: £2.95

This yarn is a lovely, soft, cotton twist with clear stitch definition and a gentle texture that is highlighted by the twist in the yarn. It is quick and easy to knit, with a tension of 18 sts and 24 rows to 10cm that is similar to an Aran weight, without being too heavy, forming a gently draping garment. It is available in a range of 16 subtle shades that include soft cream, a pretty china blue and an almost edible crushed raspberry. The knitted sample is shown in shade 11.

An exquisite yarn with a firm texture that feels velvety smooth to touch, this one looks like raw silk with just a mere hint of sheen. As with most yarns in the Debbie Bliss range, the emphasis is on well-defined stitches and a yarn that will form a gently draping garment. **Stella** knits up quickly and easily with a tension of 17 sts and 24 rows to 10cm. There are 16 shades in the colour range that include the classic neutral hue shown in the sample, a fabulous acid green and a vibrant fuchsia pink. This slightly heavier weight yarn is perfect for spring garments or summer eveningwear. Full pattern support is available in the new Debbie Bliss pattern books.

**DEBBIE BLISS
STELLA**
COMPOSITION: 60% Silk 20% Rayon 20% Cotton
WEIGHT: 50g
LENGTH: 88m
REC NEEDLE SIZE: 5mm
RRP: 3.95



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Yarn Review



**COLINETTE
JITTERBUG**
COMPOSITION: 100% Merino Wool
WEIGHT: 100g
LENGTH: 267m
REC NEEDLE SIZE: 3.25mm
RRP: £9.95

This fab, multicoloured 4ply yarn knits evenly and is soft but hardwearing. Designed for socks, it even comes with a free sock pattern on the label, but can be also be used for a multitude of projects, sweaters, cardigans, tops or vests, as well as fantastic multicoloured garments for babies and children. Available in 18 of Colinette's beautiful hand-dyed shades, the sample is shown in shade 146 Popsicle. The tension is 28 sts and 36 rows to 10cm and it will knit to a standard 4ply pattern. As with all hand-dyed yarns, each skein will vary slightly so it is advisable to work with two skeins at the same time, knitting a couple of rows from each ball in imaginary stripes to blend the shades.



**COLINETTE
BANYAN DK**
COMPOSITION: 49% Cotton 51% Viscose
WEIGHT: 50g
LENGTH: 106m
REC NEEDLE SIZE: 4mm
RRP: £4.50

10cm, so it can be used for any DK pattern as well as the designs in the Colinette pattern book for Cadenza.



**ROWAN
BAMBOO TAPE**
COMPOSITION: 100% Bamboo
WEIGHT: 50g
LENGTH: 75m
REC NEEDLE SIZE: 5mm
RRP: £4.75

Bamboo is a unique fibre that is rapidly increasing in popularity. It is extremely soft to touch and the garments drape gracefully, creating a perfect weight yarn for spring and summer garments. This superb new yarn from Rowan consists of a knitted tube that forms a flat ribbon tape with a lovely soft shimmer. It knits up evenly with just a hint of texture. There is stunning pattern support with an oriental flavour in the new Rowan pattern book, The Bamboo Tape Collection, 13 designs by Marie Wallin that include asymmetric tops, vests and kimonos. Bamboo tape is quick to knit with 19 sts and 27 rows to 10cm and it is cool to wear. Available in 12 sensational colours that include soft pastels, a beautiful duck egg green, dusty lavender and antique rose, the sample is shown in shade 703 Chalk.

This is a lovely shimmering yarn that has a slightly slubby texture, giving a light, open knit that is perfect for cool and lacy summer tops. **Damask** has a tension of 22 sts and 29 rows to 10cm and pattern support for crossover tops, vests and romantic cardigans can be found in Rowan Magazine 41, the new book of designs for spring/summer 2007. The yarn is available in eight space-dyed shades that include blends of pink, blue and green. The sample is shown in shade 44 Pigment. The multicoloured shades knit up into wavy blocks of subtle colour, giving an overall pattern to the finished garment.



**ROWAN
DAMASK**
COMPOSITION: 57% Viscose 22% Linen 21% Acrylic
WEIGHT: 50g
LENGTH: 105m
REC NEEDLE SIZE: 3.25
RRP: £3.95



TOP: Debbie Bliss Stella, Debbie Bliss Rialto, Colinette Jitterbug

MIDDLE: Colinette Banyan DK, Mission Falls, Rowan Damask

BOTTOM: Rowan Bamboo Tape, Debbie Bliss Pure Cotton

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Getting Started

SIZES

Approx: 21cm (8in) tall x 24cm (10in) wide (at base) when felted.

YOU WILL NEED

Garnstudio Eskimo Yarn

100% wool (49m per 50g ball)
7 x 50g balls in 31 Pastel blue (A)
1 x 50g ball in 05 Petrol blue (B),
15 Dark blue (C), 26 Pink (D),
29 Lime (E) and 30 Pastel pink (F)

Drops circular needle size 9mm

Pair of 8mm double pointed needles

Note: Yarn amounts given are based on average requirements and are approximate.

FOR GARNSTUDIO

YARN CONTACT:

SCANDINAVIAN KNITTING
DESIGN

South Lodge

Wellington Court

Spencers Wood

Berkshire

RG7 1BN

Tel: 01189 884 226

Email:

sales@scandinavianknittingdesign.com

Website:

www.scandinavianknittingdesign.com

TENSION

10 sts measure 10cm over st st using 9mm needles.

Tension not critical.

ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 77

STRIPE PATTERN

2 rows A, 2 rows D, 2 rows B,
2 rows C, 2 rows A, 1 row F,
2 rows E, 2 rows B, 2 rows D,
2 rows F, 2 rows A, 1 row B,
2 rows C, 2 rows E, 1 row F.

Brighton Rock bag

This funky felted handbag is the perfect shopping companion. By Birgitte Bailey

BOTTOM

Using 9mm circular needle and A, cast on 36 sts and knit back and forth in st st. Work straight until piece measures 37cm and finish with a purl row. All measurements are taken from this point from now on.

STRIPE PATTERN

Work in stripe patt as notes, repeating patt 1.5-2 times and finishing the bag in A. At the same time, knit 1 row, and pick up 36 sts along the side, 36 sts along the cast-on row and and 36 sts along the other side, 144 sts. Cont to knit round in st st (knit each row) until piece measures 40cm (16in).

SHAPE HOLES

*K8, k2 tog. Make a very loose yo (could put yrn twice), k16, make a very loose yo, k8, k2 tog, rep from * a total of 4 times until 8 holes. Cont in st st and A until the piece measures 45cm. Purl 1 round and knit 1 round. Cast off loosely in purl sts from RS.

STRAP

Use the rem wool to make a striped strap in the round in st st using 2 x 8mm double pointed needles thus:

Cast on 5 sts and knit 1 row. Now push all sts to the other end of the needle. Put the thread behind the piece and knit (work in st st) from beg again. Work this way until you have used all the wool or the strap is approx 2.25m – 2.50m (2.5 – 2.75yds) long.

TO FINISH OFF

Sew all threads. If desired use one of the contrast cols to embroider a simple flower on the plain base of the bag.

TO FELT

Wash the bag on a full cycle at 40° with washing power without any enzymes. When washed, open the eight holes with a 15–20mm needle. Stretch the strap to approximately 170cm and fold the bag into shape. When dry, pull the strap through the eight holes and either knot or sew the ends together. ●



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Book Reviews

By Katie Allen



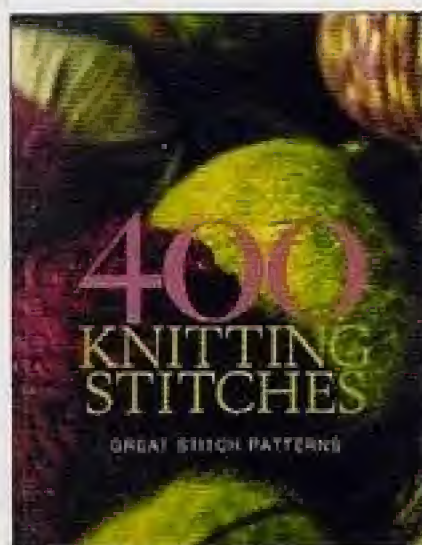
Special Family Knits

BY DEBBIE BLISS
PUBLISHED BY COLLINS
& BROWN £20
ISBN 978 1 84340 343 2
TEL 020 7314 1400

A new Debbie Bliss book is always a treat and Special

Family Knits is no exception, the beautiful photography taking us on a tour to windswept beaches, summer picnics and country gardens. The palette of colours and stitches reflects these themes: the shell-delicate child's Boat Sweater, the Patchwork Aran Jacket the colour of winter seas, the man's sky blue Cricket Sweater, a little girl's lace-edged leaf green Sun Hat. The 25 designs are all classic, flattering and easy to wear, with clear instructions and a useful information section. With a project to suit every skill-level, but not neglecting the more experienced knitter, there is sure to be something to please every member of your family.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY BIANCA TONKIN DAILY



400 Knitting Stitches

PUBLISHED BY MURDOCH BOOKS £14.99

ISBN 1 921208 35 X

TEL 020 8785 5995

More than 400 stitches are collected in this handbag-sized yet chunky little book, each illustrated with clear instructions, chart and close-up photograph. The patterns are preceded by a 'Knitting basics' section, which

although thorough, is let down by some old-fashioned-looking black and white photography.

However, the rest of the

book is an exhaustively

detailed and

(thankfully) colour-

coded catalogue of

stitches, moving

from knit-purl

methods to

crossed stitches

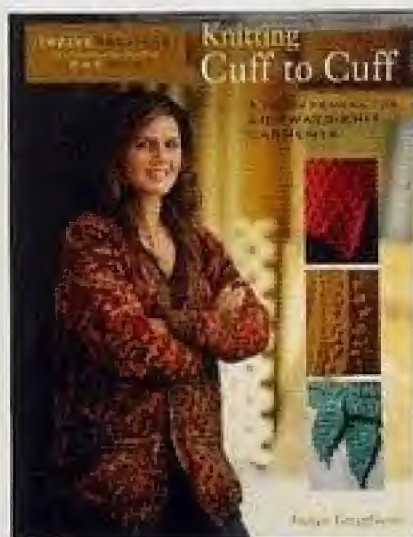
and cables, slipped, lacy,

double, twisted and cast-off with a

fun section of fancy stitches at the end.

There is more than enough to tempt the plainest

knitter into adding a little garnish to their garment.



Knitting Cuff to Cuff

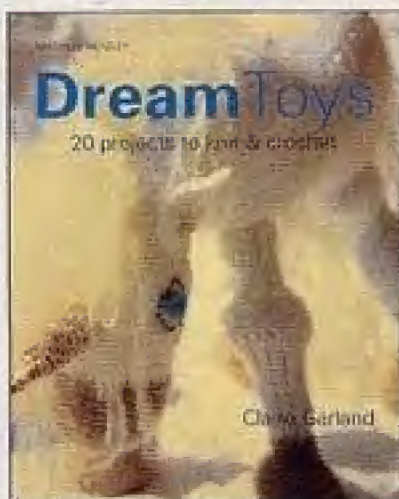
BY SUSAN GUAGLIUMI
PUBLISHED BY CREATIVE PUBLISHING INTERNATIONAL
£12.99

ISBN 978 1 58923 290 7

TEL 01273 727298

Knitting sideways is a versatile alternative, and this book is an unimposing guide to the construction of 12 sweaters, offering diagrams and charts plus

extensive instructions. The designs are not limited by being based on one simple template, and range from wraps to big cardigans, not neglecting stitch patterns or unusual shaping. Sideways knitting is ideal for variegated yarns, producing vertical stripe effects, and the styles in the book are both colourful and bold, particularly the arty Crayon Stripes sweater. It is an American book so be aware of differences in yarn, needle size and abbreviations, although there are glossary and stockist lists.



Dream Toys

BY CLAIRE GARLAND
PUBLISHED BY MITCHELL BEAZLEY £12.99

ISBN 1 84533 264 4

TEL 01903 828800

In this lovely book, Claire Garland revisits the fairy stories, tall tales and imaginings of childhood, with 20 projects to knit or crochet.

Basic doll and horse shapes are

used to create quirky toys, from fairies and unicorns to cowboys, and even a mermaid with an accompanying posse of sea creatures. I particularly liked the Eeyore-looking horses with their knobby knees and dangly legs. Perfect for kids' adventurous minds, these projects are also good for grown-ups, with comprehensive instructions, clear detail shots and 'Basics' complete with illustrations in ice-cream shades to match the charming photographs.





LITE UP YOUR LIFE!

Following the revolutionary launch of Knit Lite needles last year, crochet hooks are the latest accessories to light up your projects! Widget Products, Inc has now created The Crochet Lite crochet hook, putting an end to the difficulties in working with particularly dark yarn or in poor lighting. The hook is available in nine colour-coded sizes with a tip that glows using a long-lasting LED technology. The hooks are available now at www.clover-usa.com or for more information visit www.knitlite.com



SAM'S HELPFUL HAT

Rowan has released an exclusive hat pattern in support of Sam's Campaign launched by Samantha Dickson Brain Tumour Trust with 100% of the proceeds going towards brain tumour research. Designer Martin Storey has created the pattern using ultra-soft Baby Alpaca DK, decorated with a heart shape of crystal beads, to fight the disease, which has increased significantly in the last 30 years and kills more children in the UK than any other cancer. The pattern costs just £1 and is downloadable at www.braintumourtrust.co.uk



CUTE FOR KIDS

Boys and girls will be looking good this spring, as Patons has just launched two fresh and exciting pattern books. Play Days features six designs for boys, including sweaters, jackets and slippers in Washed Haze DK, with two new shades of

Teal and Spice among the colours used. The girls' patterns are equally gorgeous in Sugar and Spice, with a range of lacy and feminine wraps, dresses and cardigans in 100%cotton DK and 4ply. For your nearest Patons stockist, phone **01325 394 237** or visit www.coatscrafts.co.uk



In stitches

TREAT YOUR FEET!

Make the ultimate sock statement with Colinette's new JitterBug yarn, a stunning 100% merino wool in a choice of 14 eye-catching colours. You can also use it for sweaters, cardis, tops and vests, but if you'd rather jazz up your tootsies, there's a free sock pattern with every 100g hank of yarn. JitterBug is on sale now with an RRP of £9.95. Log on to www.colinette.com to buy online and find out more.

Colinette

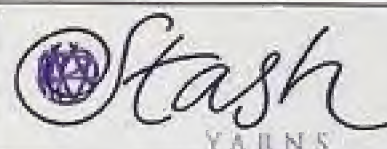
YARNS

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FRESHEN UP

Rush into Stash Yarns and stock up on 1824 Cotton and Wool from Mission Falls. This yarn is big in the US and Canada and it is available in a wide range of colours from neutral, earthy shades to rich berries, greens and blues. Fleece Artist Sea Wool has also just arrived at Stash, so there's a double delight in store! The 70% merino and 30% SeaCell yarn is similar to the hugely popular Hand Maiden Sea Silk and comes in a choice of gorgeous hues. Visit Stash Yarns at 213 Upper Richmond Road, Putney or log onto www.stashyarns.co.uk



Knitting Q&A

Ask Jean

Your queries answered by Jean Moss



sponsored by Artesano



Age before beauty

Q What can you tell me about the origins of hand knitting? What is the first piece of knitting on record?

Jane Brown, Pewsey.

A What an interesting question! I consulted the knit history expert,

Richard Rutt, who tells me that the exact geographical origin for knitting is uncertain. The first references to true knitting in Europe were in the early fourteenth century, although the first knitted socks from Egypt date back to the eleventh. The oldest remnants of knitted pieces are from socks and stockings, possibly because stitches could be shaped to fit the foot more easily than woven cloth. These early socks were worked in N lebinding, an ancient craft similar to knitting which creates fabric

with multiple knots or loops. N lebinding accounts for some of the oldest textiles and may have predated spinning as it doesn't require a continuous thread.

Also look at the works of fourteenth century artists; Ambrogio Lorenzetti, Vitale degli Equi and Tommaso da Modena all painted knitting Madonnas. Purl stitch was unknown until the mid-sixteenth century. Plain knitting was produced by knitting in the round and then cutting open (early steeks). It was men who first knitted for profit, a valuable income for the British poor, who exported fine wool stockings to the Netherlands, Spain, and Germany. Elizabeth I herself commissioned fine silk knit stockings and examples survive today in the V&A Museum, where you'll find many textile treats like this gorgeous seventeenth-eighteenth century brocade knit jacket.

STAR LETTER KIT GIVEAWAY

Jane Brown is this month's star letter winner. She wins an Artesano Brittany

Needles set of five needles worth £22.50. Each month Artesano will be giving away a kit to the star query published.

To be in with a chance to win a kit send your queries to:

Ask Jean, Knitting,
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or email

katiea@thegmcgroup.com

Note: Jean regrets that she cannot enter into any personal correspondence with readers and can only answer letters that are chosen for publication in **Knitting**.



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GIANANTHONY DALEY UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED ILLUSTRATIONS BY MICHAELA BLUCHER'S MON ROADWAY



V&A South Kensington, London,
SW7 2RL. Tel 020 7942 2000
or visit www.vam.ac.uk
A History of Hand Knitting,
Richard Rutt, Interweave Press Inc
(2003), ISBN 1931499373, £28.99.



Baby blues

Q I recently made a jumper for my sister's baby, the first since I changed my knitting method to English (I learnt the Continental method at school in Japan). Unfortunately, the baby's head was too big to get through the neck. My sister has asked me to attach buttons to the shoulder to make it wearable. I would be grateful for your help.

Wakako Weller, London

A This problem is very close to my heart: I'm about to become a grandmother for the first time, and my needles have been working overtime. I'd forgotten how easy it is to produce fabulous little pieces in no time at all. Remove the neckband and undo the shoulder where you want to add the buttons. Remove the sleeve on that side. Take the shoulder back to 0.25in

from the top on the back (do not work any shoulder shaping). Change to smaller needles and work the button band by working 0.5in in k1, p1 rib. Cast off. Sew two buttons onto the band, spaced evenly. Work the buttonhole band on the front shoulder in the same way, but add two buttonholes on the middle row to correspond with the button placing. Work buttonholes by casting off a number of sts to fit the buttons and casting them on again on the following row.

There's an example of this technique in Debbie Bliss's *Simply Baby*.

PS It's great to hear that they teach knitting in schools in Japan.

Simply Baby, Debbie Bliss, Quadrille Publishing Ltd (2006), ISBN 1-84400-316-7, £14.99.



Darn it!

Q Can you please explain what Swiss darning is and how to do it?

Mrs M O'Connor, Sanday, Orkney

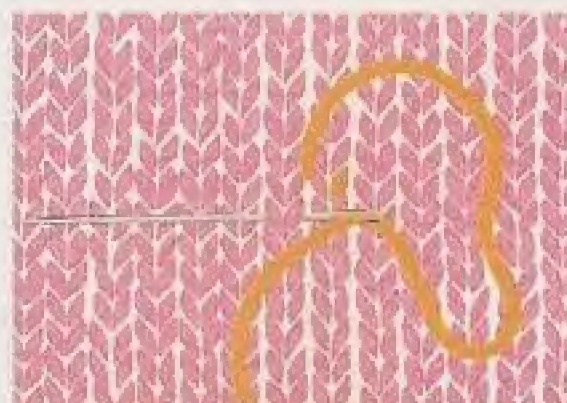
A Intarsia doesn't suit everyone, so Swiss darning is handy to add small amounts of colour to a finished project.

Tips:

- Use the same thickness of yarn as the sweater so that it will fully cover the stitch
- Do not pull the yarn across the back of the work so that the tension of the stitches remains the same as the original
- Use a blunt-ended needle to avoid splitting the yarn
- Complete one area of colour before going on to the next, darning in the loose ends behind, avoiding tangling the different yarns



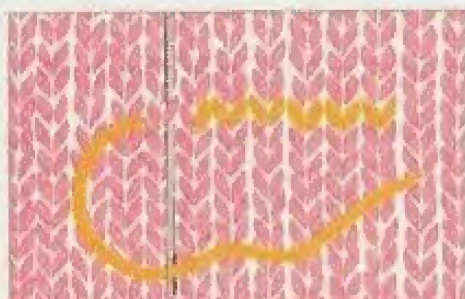
Start at bottom right corner and work from right to left, pushing the needle through from back to front at base of first stitch to be darned. Draw yarn through leaving 4in tail at back then *insert needle from right to left behind the two loops of the stitch one row above.



Draw yarn through, then insert needle back into base of same stitch and out at base of next stitch to the left. Draw yarn through. Repeat from * along row, carrying yarn behind any stitches to be worked in different colours.



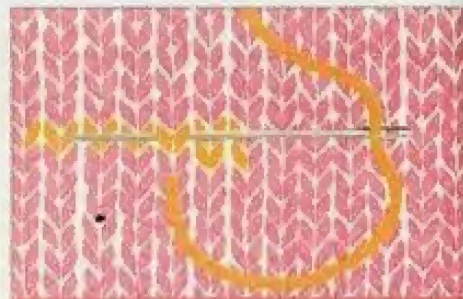
Knitting Q&A



When all stitches on row are completed you can either work back along next row from left to right, or turn the work and continue working from right to left. Either way, insert needle back into base of last stitch worked, then up into centre of same stitch and draw yarn through.



Yarn is now at base of next row to be worked. *Working from left to right insert needle behind the two loops of this stitch one row above and draw yarn through. Insert needle back into base of same stitch. Push needle through at base of next stitch, to right of last stitch. Repeat from * along row.



Turn work upside down - yarn at top of next row of stitches to be worked. *Insert needle behind the two loops of the stitch one row below and draw yarn through. Insert needle back into top of stitch and then up through top of next stitch to the left. Repeat from * along row.

Afterthoughts - readers' feedback

A reminder

I was very glad to read Mrs Pam Mawson's letter regarding crochet patterns. Is any chance you could include instructions and some patterns on Tunisian crochet. I once knew how to do this and still have my special crochet hooks but have completely forgotten.

**Ellena M Lewis,
Newbury,
Berks**

Tunisian crochet was featured in Carol Chambers' baby cardi last month and also in my column in Knitting 27. It's



a fascinating technique, being something of a hybrid between knitting and crochet!

Touch base



In a recent issue of Knitting, someone mentioned Clover Soft Touch Crochet Hooks and the difficulty of getting them in the UK. I have rheumatoid arthritis and find them comfortable to use. They can be bought through the Knitting & Crochet Guild, who have an extensive catalogue of everything for the knitter and crocheter -

books, cushion handles for fine crochet hooks, and even very fine knitting needles down to old size 24!

Mrs S Perkins, Kings Lynn, Norfolk

Thanks for this. The Knitting & Crochet Guild is a wonderful resource and I'm proud to be one of their patrons.

**The Knitting & Crochet Guild, PO Box 4421, Kidderminster DY11 8YW
www.knitting-and-crochet-guild.org.uk**

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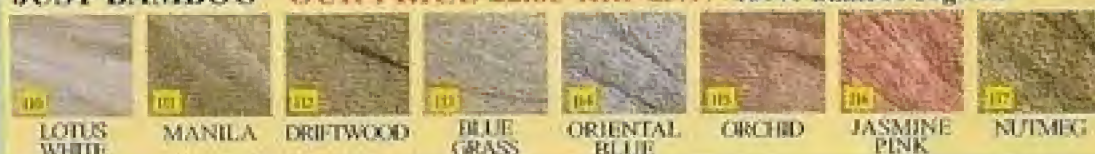
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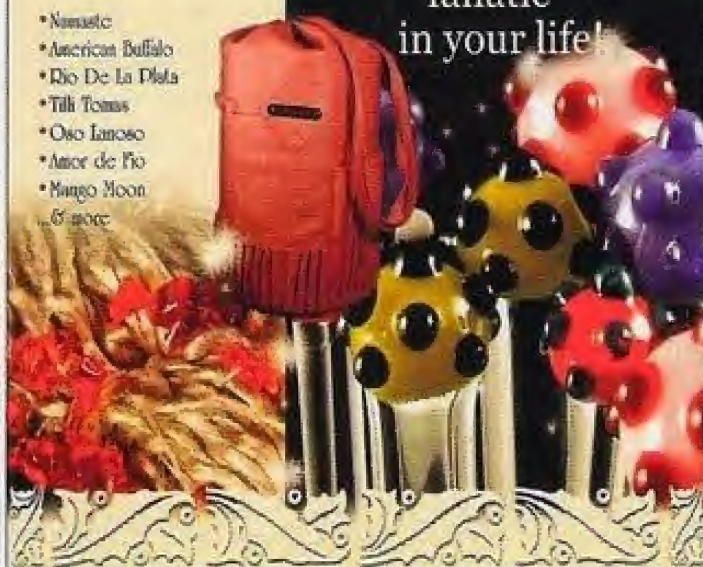
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Guide for beginners

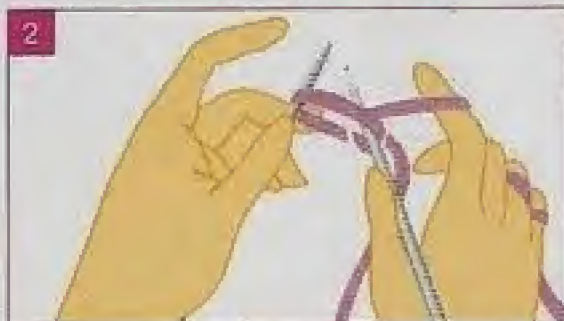
Essential Techniques

Carol Chambers explains the basic techniques needed for most knitting patterns with this handy reference guide

EASY CAST-ON

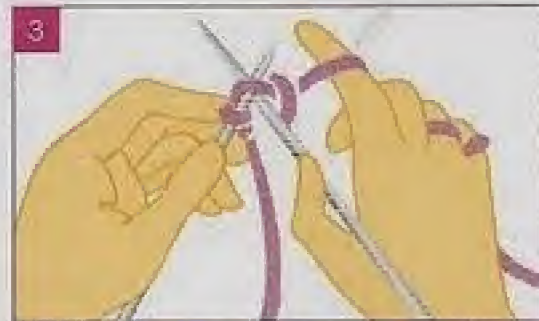


Make a slip knot. Insert the right-hand needle into the stitch loop and lay the yarn across – **Diag 1**. To control the yarn hold it as shown, over the forefinger, under the middle finger, over the last finger and then loop it around the little finger. This is something that needs a little perseverance, but helps feed the



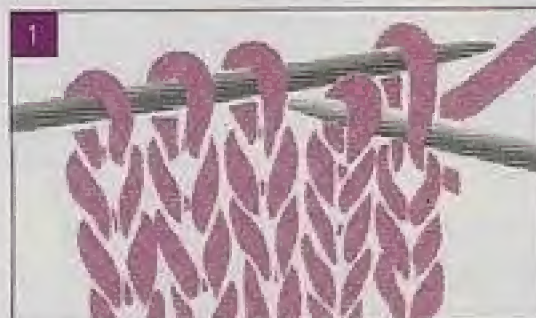
yarn evenly and therefore gives an even tension, and later will help you to knit more quickly. Pull a new loop through the first loop – **Diag 2** and then slide it onto the left-hand needle – **Diag 3**.

You now have two stitches on the left-hand needle. All the rest of the stitches are made the same way, so carry on until

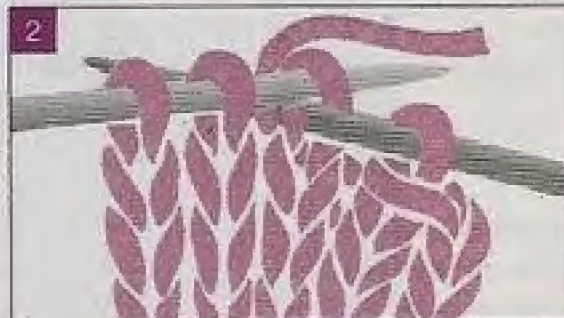


you feel comfortable. Don't worry if your stitches are slightly different sizes, even tension comes with a little practice. So if a pattern tells you to cast on 30 sts (stitches) you will make your slip knot (counting as stitch 1) and then make a series of 29 new stitches, making 30 in all.

CASTING OFF



To cast off, knit the first two stitches so that they are now both on the right-hand



needle. Put the tip of the left-hand needle into the first stitch you knitted – **diag 1**.

Lift it over the top of your second stitch and let it come off the tip of the needle. It will now be around the neck of your second knitted stitch – **Diag 2**. Knit the next stitch and repeat. You will always lift the stitch farthest away from the tip of the right-hand needle over the last stitch that you knitted. Repeat all the way along the row until one stitch remains. Break off the yarn and pull the stitch loop until the end comes through fastening off the last stitch securely.

M1 – MAKE ONE EXTRA STITCH



This means the same as inc 1 (increase 1 stitch). There are several ways of increasing, but the one which is generally written as m1 can be done like this:



Knit row: Pick up the strand between the two needles using left needle – **Diag 1**. Knit (k) into the back of the picked up loop thus forming a new stitch – **Diag 2**. Slip



on to right-hand needle.
Purl row: As diag 1 for k row, then p into the back of the new stitch – **Diag 3**. Slip on to the right-hand needle.

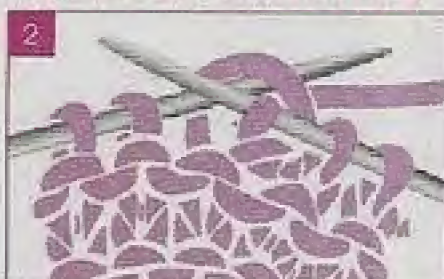


Guide for beginners

PLAIN KNITTING



If you have tried out the first casting-on method, then you have already started plain knitting. Holding the needle which has the stitches in your left hand and the empty needle with your right, insert the tip of the right-hand needle into the first stitch nearest the needle point.



Hold the yarn as shown in picture 1 of 'easy cast-on'. Wind the yarn over the needle – **Diag 1**. Pull a new loop through – **Diag 2**. Now slip the new stitch onto the right-hand needle – **Diag 3**. You have now knitted a stitch and should work in the same manner



until the left-hand needle is empty and the right-hand needle holds a new set of stitches. Swap hands so that the needle with stitches is in your left hand and you can start another new row. Stitches which knit into the front of the 'old' stitch are known as knit (K or k) stitches.

ABBREVIATIONS

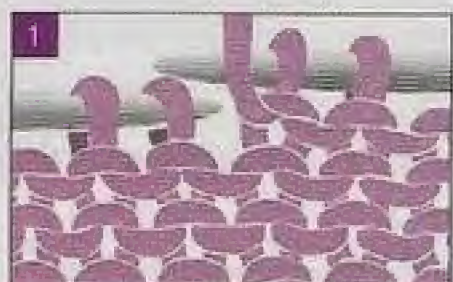
st st – stocking stitch, knit (k) one row, purl (p) one row.

These 2 rows are repeated throughout.

inc 1 st – increase 1 stitch. There are several ways of doing this, but one easy method is to knit (or purl if the next stitch is a purl stitch) into the back and front of the stitch – so you make two stitches where there was one. If the pattern says 'k3, inc1' then you would knit 3 sts then k into the back and front of the next st (for the inc1) then continue as the rest of the instructions.

dec 1 st – decrease 1 stitch, work as for k2tog – or, if working a p row, purl next 2 sts together.

PURL STITCHES



Purl stitches are made with the yarn to the front of the work.



Insert the right-hand needle into the stitch through the part of the loop which is nearest to you from front to back.



Take the yarn over the needle and pull the new loop through.

SEWING UP



Work a mattress stitch seam by placing pieces right sides facing

and edge-to-edge. Using a wool sewing needle, join thread to one piece and then take a small straight stitch in the second piece. Take the needle back to the same position as it came out of piece one and make another straight stitch in piece one. Work back and forth as illustrated, pulling the thread up regularly to close the gap between the pieces. This seam enables

edges and patterns to be matched very precisely and is reasonably flat, retains elasticity and won't give bulky seams. Occasionally designers will give specific instructions as to seam and joining methods which should be used. Whenever possible follow their advice as they have selected the best method for the particular item.

JOINING A YARN

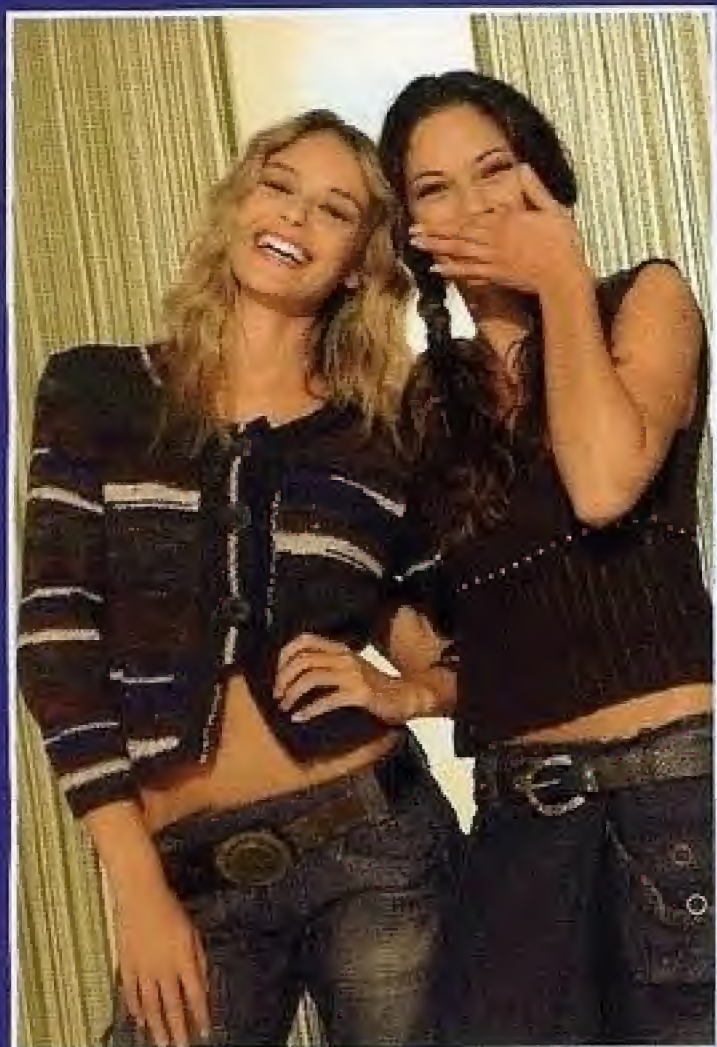
To join a new ball or a new colour (eg for stripes), leaving tails approx 8–10cm and loosely tie the old ball and new one together at the edge of the row. When knitting is complete, untie the knots, thread yarns through a tapestry needle and weave them back into the reverse of the work. ●



This is a method of dec (decreasing) a stitch. Put the tip of right-hand needle through the 2 stitches at the tip of the left-hand needle – **Diag 1**. Now knit 1 stitch – **Diag 2**, k3tog – knit 3 stitches together as above, but read three for two.

K2TOG – KNIT 2 STITCHES TOGETHER



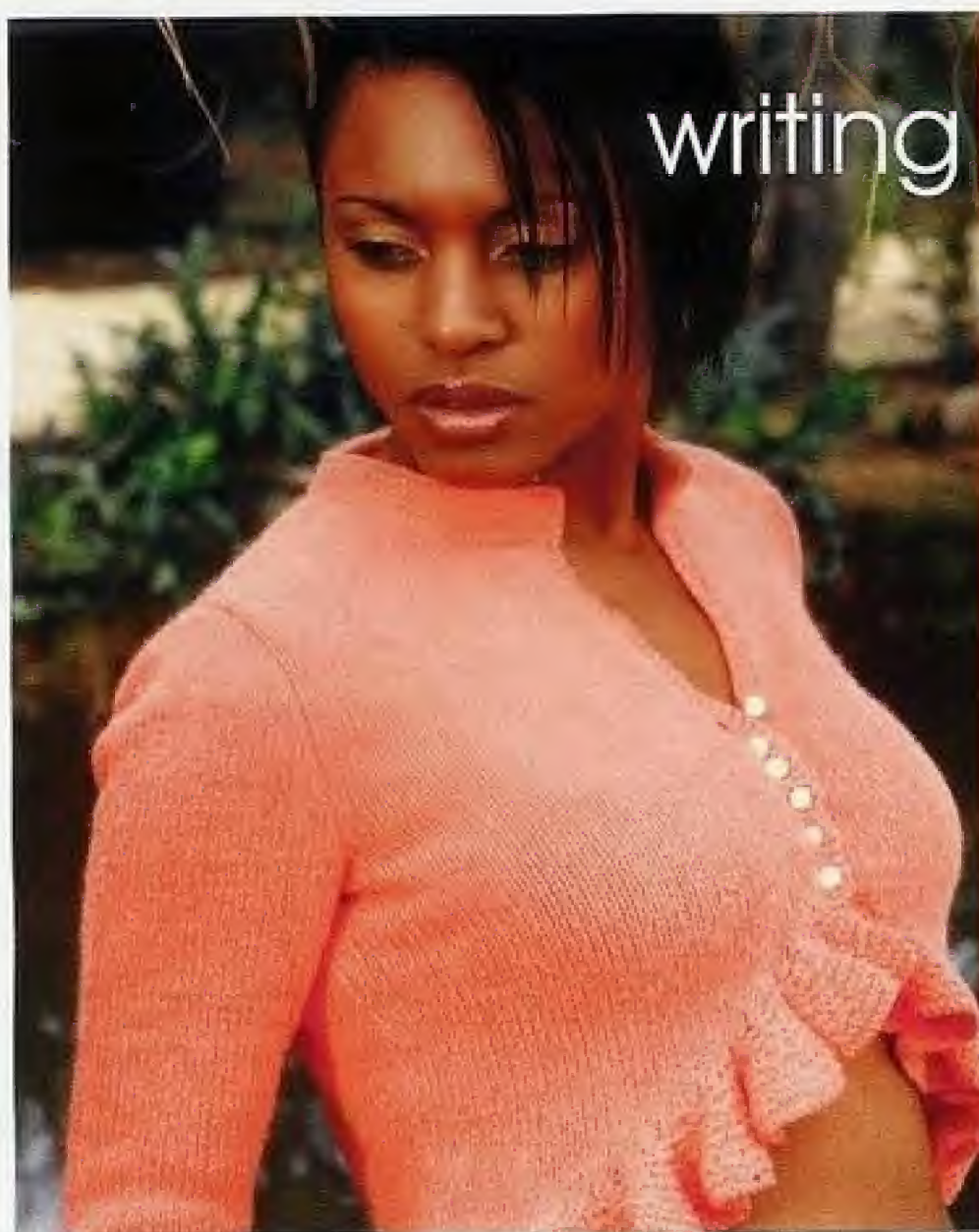


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Happy Knitting Tips for Success

We pass on the secrets that might take you years to learn the hard way!

HOW MUCH YARN?

Our patterns tell you how much yarn each designer used, but if you know you tend to knit tightly, buy extra yarn, just in case!

MATCH THE SWATCH!

To match the sizes and measurements given in our patterns you must make a tension swatch (gauge) before knitting the project. If your swatch turns out larger than ours, try again using smaller needles, if it is too small, try larger needles.

HOW TO SEW UP

- 1 Before you sew knitted pieces together, pin the pieces flat to the measurements given on our diagrams.
- 2 Now steam press, lightly steam or spray lightly with water depending on washing instructions on the ball band.
- 3 Allow pieces to cool and dry before sewing up.
- 4 To sew up use a neat back stitch using the yarn you knitted with. Or, if the yarn is textured and hard to sew, use a smooth matching yarn – cotton with cotton, wool with wool, etc, and use mattress stitch.
- 5 Many garments can be made up by sewing shoulder seams first, then setting in sleeve head to armhole then completing by sewing along the long seam of the sides and sleeves. Each pattern has extra tips where necessary.
- 6 Darn in all ends and finish seams by lightly steaming from wrong side, provided the yarn can be steamed.
All measurements shown to nearest 0.5cm or 0.5in.
Measurements on diagrams are given in cm.

SWAP YARNS!

Discovering old patterns is a joy, but isn't it frustrating when you can't get the yarn specified? Don't give up, swap old for new!

- 1 Pick a modern yarn that you like, with a similar look, composition and weight to the one in the old pattern.
- 2 Knit a tension swatch (gauge) and compare it to the one given in the pattern. If they both come out to the same size, you're onto a winner!
- 3 Calculate how much yarn to buy. Many patterns tell you the length of yarn in each ball as well as the weight. So if the pattern uses 10 balls at 130 metres per ball, you know you need up to 1,300 metres of yarn. Check the length per ball of your new yarn and divide the total yarn length by the length in 1 ball to get the number of balls you need to make the garment.
- 4 Compare the total weight of each yarn length. For example if the original pattern had 10 balls at 50g each, the total weight would be 500g. Now that you have worked out how many balls of new yarn you are buying, just multiply the number of balls by the weight per ball. That should roughly match the 500g total that you had for the old yarn. It's just another way to check that you are on the right track.

- 5 Use this same method to substitute yarns for modern patterns, where the yarn is too expensive or difficult to obtain, or if you just want to use up yarn in your stash.

Easy really! If you are lucky enough to have a yarn shop near you, it is also wise to show the pattern to the owner to get a second opinion before buying the new yarn. The advertisements in Knitting magazine are full of sources of wonderful yarn. Many wool shops also sell on the Internet or by mail order. Happy browsing ●

KNITTING LANGUAGE

K (or k)	knit	beg	beginning
P (or p)	purl	alt	alternate
st(s)	stitch(es)	fol	following
st st	stocking stitch (k1 row,	rnd	round
p1 row rep the 2 rows)		rep	repeat
g-st	garter stitch (every row k)	patt	pattern
sl	slip	rem	remaining
ssk	slip, slip, knit (slip 2	cont	continue
consecutive sts then insert left needle		cm	centimetre(s)
back into the front of the 2 sts and k		CN	cable needle
the two slipped sts together) – ie this		C6b	slip next 3 sts onto a CN
forms a decrease			and hold sts at back of the knitting,
psso	pass slip stitch over		knit the next 3 sts and then the 3 sts
skpo	sl1, k1, pass slip st over		from the CN
the one just knitted		C6f	slip next 3 sts onto a CN
lp(s)	loop(s)		and hold sts at front of the knitting,
tbl	through back loop (ie ktbl		knit the next 3 sts and then the 3 sts
or k tbl = k next st through back			from the CN
loop)		L	left
yf	yarn forward (ie yarn to	R	right
front)		RS	right side
yb	yarn back (ie yarn to back)	WS	wrong side
yo	yarn over needle to make a	RH	right hand
stitch (can mean yarn round needle		LH	left hand
to make a stitch)			
k-wise	knit wise (ie as if to k st)		
p-wise	purl wise (ie as if to p st)		
m1	make 1 by picking up		
thread before next st and K into			
back of it			
inc	increase		
dec	decrease		

CROCHET

ch	chain
dc	double crochet (US sc)
htr	half treble (US hdc)
tr	treble (US dc)
dtr	double treble (US tr)

NEEDLE KNOW-HOW

Metric (mm)	Old UK	USA	Metric (mm)	Old UK	USA
2	14	0	5	6	8
2.25	13	1	5.5	5	9
2.5	—	—	6	4	10
2.75	12	2	6.5	3	10.5
3	11	—	7	2	—
3.25	10	3	7.5	1	—
3.5	—	4	8	0	11
3.75	9	5	9	00	13
4	8	6	10	000	15
4.5	7	7			

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Getting Started

SIZES

Actual measurement: Approx 50 x 53cm
(20 x 21in)

YOU WILL NEED

Rowan Kid Classic 70% lambswool,
26% kid mohair, 4% nylon
(140m per 50g ball)

4 x 50g balls in 835 Spruce (A)
1 x 50g ball each in 840 Crystal (C)
and 832 Peat (B).

Rowan Wool Cotton 50% wool,
50% cotton (113m per 50g ball).
1 x 50g each in 951 Tender (D)
and 962 Pumpkin (E)

Rowan Cashsoft DK
50% extra fine merino, 33% microfibre,
10% cashmere (130m per 50g ball)
1 x 50g each in 509 Lime (F)
and 512 Poppy (G).

Rowan Scottish Tweed DK

100% wool (113m per 50g ball)

1 x 50g in 11 Sunset (H)

1 pair 4mm needles, 5 buttons,
cushion pad,

Tapestry needle

Note: Yarn amounts given are based
on average requirements and are
approximate.

FOR ROWAN STOCKISTS CONTACT:

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Tel: 01484 681 881

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TENSION

25 sts and 24 rows to cm over st st
using 4mm needles. Tension not critical
if a small change in size is acceptable.

ABBREVIATIONS SEE PAGE 77

Tips

Patt worked using Fair Isle technique,
carrying yarn(s) not in use behind work,
but twisting them when cols changed to
prevent gap.

Folklore floor cushion

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PATTERN

Colour patt worked from chart, work RS
rows from R to L and WS rows from L to R.

FRONT

Using 4mm needles and A cast on 125
sts. Working in st st and col patt, follow
chart from bottom to top twice, then again
from row 1 to row 12. Cast off.

SIDE TRIMS

Work 2 alike.

Using 4 mm needles and A, pick up 1 st
for each row along side of piece. Work
2cm (1in) k1, p1 rib.

Cast off in rib.

BACK

(Worked in 2 sections)

SECTION 1

Using 4mm needles and A cast on 125 sts.
Work in st st for 22 cm (8.5in). Cast off.

BUTTON BAND

Work in k1, p1 rib for 3.5cm (1.5in) and

cast off in rib. Place markers for 5 buttons
along centre of rib band – the first and last
5cm (2in) in from each side and 3 others
spaced evenly between.

SECTION 2

Work as for section 1 until rib measures
2cm (1in). Work 5 buttonholes opposite
markers. Cast off 2 sts for each buttonhole.
On next row cast on 2 sts over cast off sts.
Work 2cm rib (1in). Cast off in rib.

TO FINISH OFF

Block and steam gently to correct
measurements. With RS of both back
sections facing and buttonhole band
above button band, sew rib together at
sides. With tapestry needle and RS of
front and back tog backstitch all 4 sides.
Turn to RS. Using A and B make 14 cm
long tassels. Attach to sides of cushion
alternately. Sew on buttons to
correspond with buttonholes.

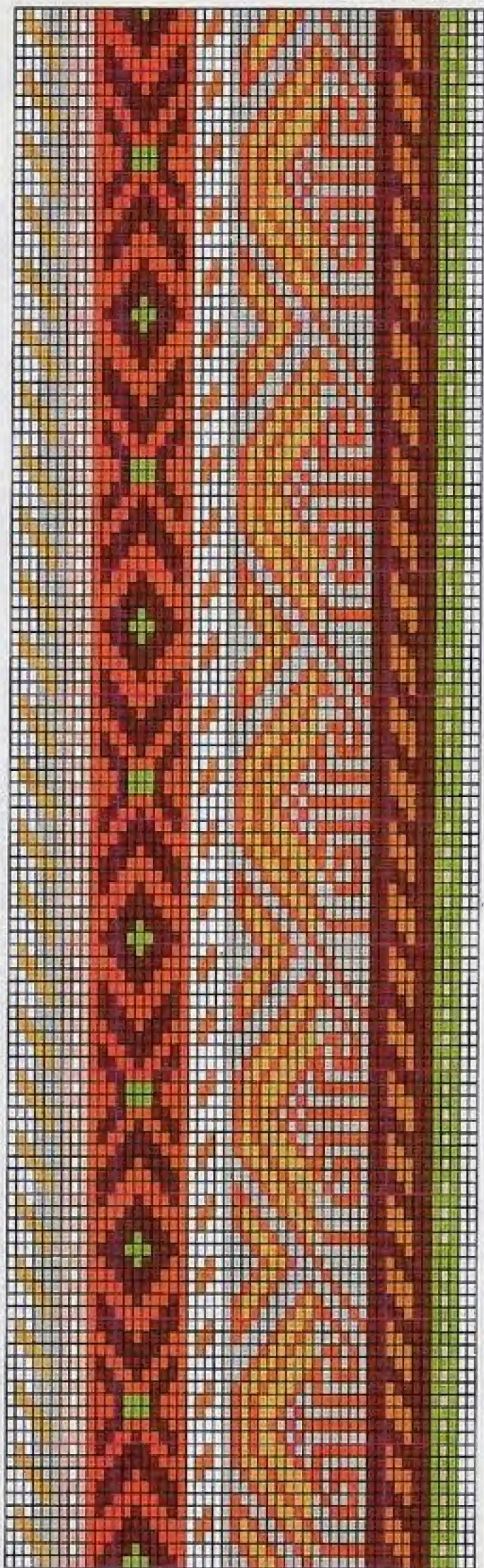
FOR COLOUR CHART SEE PAGE 80



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52

COLOUR CHART



25 st repeat

■ C ■ D ■ E ■ F ■ G ■ H

Each square = 1 st and 1 row. Read RS rows from R to L and WS rows from L to R





Getting Started

SIZES

Actual measurement:

100cm x 100cm (39.5 x 39.5in).

YOU WILL NEED

Sirdar Luxury Soft Cotton

100% natural cotton (95m per 50g ball)

8 x 50g balls in 661 Pretty Pink (A)

4 x 50g balls in 659 Lilac Blossom (B)

One pair 4mm needles

One pair 3.5mm needles

Approx 550 acrylic white pearl beads with holes large enough to thread onto yarn

Approx 50 pink ribbon roses

Invisible thread for sewing on ribbon roses

Note: Yarn amounts given are based on average requirements and are approximate.

FOR SIRDAR STOCKISTS PLEASE CONTACT:

Sirdar Spinning Ltd
Flanshaw Lane
Wakefield
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**Also see advertisements in
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TENSION

20 sts and 28 rows to 10 cm measured using 4mm needles over main pattern. Tension is not critical provided a slight change in size is acceptable.

ABBREVIATIONS

SB1 = Slip one bead next to left needle.

**FOR FURTHER ABBREVIATIONS
SEE PAGE 77**

Viennoise tablecloth

Lacy knitting is 'in', so give vintage styling a whirl
with this beaded lace tablecloth.

Designed by Hazel Roots

Pattern notes

Before beginning to knit edging, thread approx 185 beads onto B and repeat this whenever starting a new ball. To do this, thread a fine sewing needle (one that will easily pass through the beads) with sewing thread. Knot ends of thread and then pass end of yarn through this loop. Thread a bead onto sewing thread and then gently slide it along and onto knitting yarn. Continue in this way until the required number of beads are threaded on yarn.



CENTRE

Using 4mm needles cast on 173 sts and purl 1 row. Work rows 1-28 of Chart A thus:

CENTRE PATTERN

Row 1: K2, * yf, k2tog, k10, rep from * to last 3 sts, yf, k2tog, k1.

Row 2: Purl.

Row 3: K3, * yf, k2tog, k7, skpo, yf, k1, rep from * to last 2 sts, k2.

Row 4: Purl.

Row 5: K4, * yf, k2tog, k5, skpo, yf, k3, rep from * to last st, k1.

Row 6: Purl.

Row 7: As row 3.

Row 8, 10, 12 and 14: Purl.

Row 9: As row 3.

Rows 11 and 13: Knit.

Row 15: K8, * yf, k2tog, k10, rep from * to last 9 sts, yf, k2tog, k7.



Row 16: Purl.

Row 17: K6, * skpo, yf, k1, yf, k2tog, k7, rep from * to last 11 sts, skpo, yf, k1, yf, k2tog, k6.

Row 18: Purl.

Row 19: K5, * skpo, yf, k3, yf, k2tog, k5, rep from * to end.

Row 20: Purl.

Row 21: As row 17.

Row 22: Purl.

Row 23: As row 17.

Row 24, 26 and 28: Purl.

Rows 25 and 27: Knit.

Rep these 28 rows a further seven times. Then work rows 1-10 of Chart A.

Next row: Knit.

With WS facing, cast off all sts k-wise.

EDGING

Thread beads onto B (see patt notes). Using 3.5mm needles and B with beads threaded on, cast on 14 sts.

Work rows 1-12 of Chart B thus:

EDGING PATTERN

Row 1: (RS) SB1, yo, k2tog, yo, k1, yo, ssk, k5, yrn, p2tog, k2. (15 sts)

Row 2: K2, yrn, p2tog, k1, p5, k5.

Row 3: SB1, yo, k2tog, yo, k3, yo, ssk, k4, yrn, p2tog, k2. (16 sts)

Row 4: K2, yrn, p2tog, k1, p4, k7.

Row 5: SB1, yo, k2tog, yo, k2, ssk, k1, yo, ssk, k3, yrn, p2tog, k2.

Row 6: K2, yrn, p2tog, k1, p3, k1, ssk, [yo] 3 times, k2tog, k3. (17 sts)

Row 7: SB1, yo, k2tog, yo, ssk, p1, k1, p1, k2tog, yo, k4, yrn, p2tog, k2.

Row 8: K2, yrn, p2tog, k1, p4, k5, k2tog, k1. (16 sts)

Row 9: SB1, yo, k2tog, yo, ssk, k1, k2tog, yo, k5, yrn, p2tog, k2.

Row 10: K2, yrn, p2tog, k1, p5, k3, k2tog, k1. (15 sts)

Row 11: SB1, yo, k2tog, yo, sl 2tog k-wise, k1, p2sso, yo, k6, yrn, p2tog, k2.

Row 12: K2, yrn, p2tog, k1, p6, k1, k2tog, k1. (14 sts)

Rep these 12 rows until edging is long enough to fit around the centre ending with row 12 of edging pattern. Cast off.

TO MAKE UP

Join cast on edge of edging to cast off edge and pin edging evenly around the centre of the tablecloth.

Sew the edging in place easing it around the corners. Using invisible thread, sew the satin roses to the tablecloth edging as illustrated. ●

STITCH PATTERN CHART A

17 sts x 28 rows

Key:

- K
- / K2tog
- P
- // skpo
- ⌋ yf

STITCH PATTERN CHART B

12 row repeat

Key:

- K
- / K2tog
- P
- △ P2tog
- ◆ SB1
- ⋈ sl 2tog k-wise, k1, p2sso
- \ ssk
- yo



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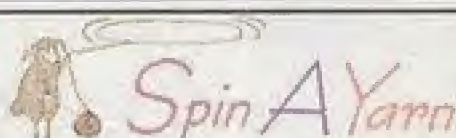
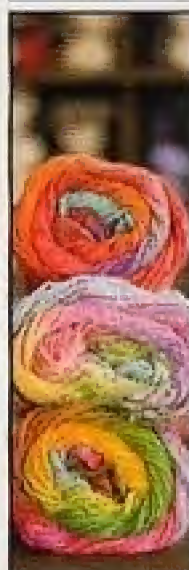
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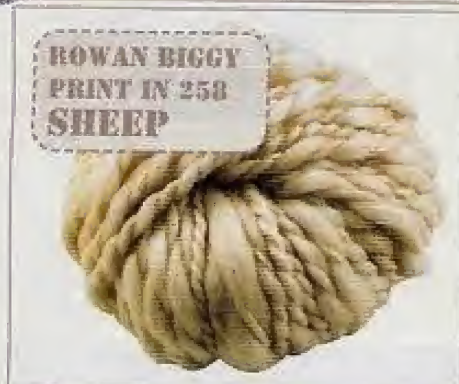
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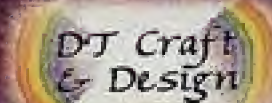


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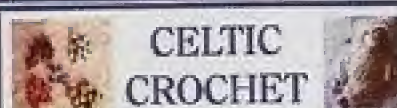
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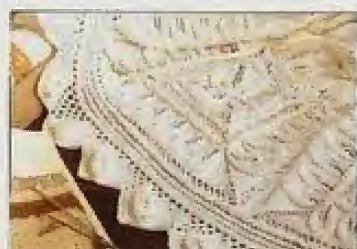


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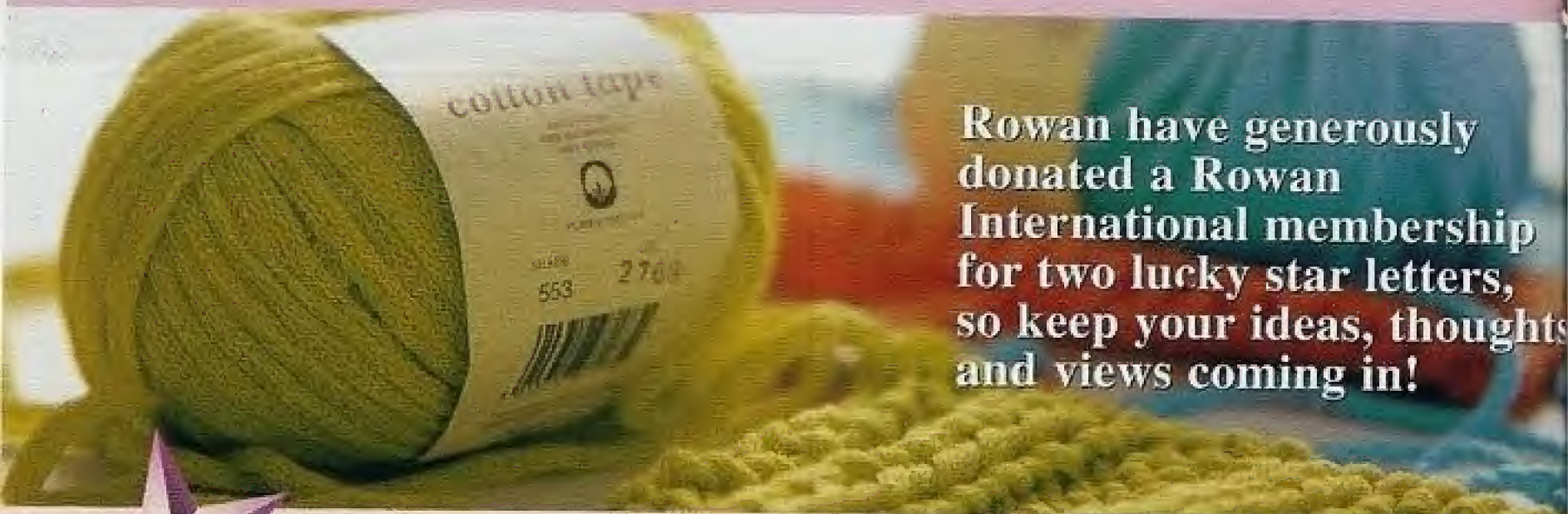
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Rowan have generously donated a Rowan International membership for two lucky star letters, so keep your ideas, thoughts and views coming in!

STAR LETTER

Because I'm worth it

I was baffled by F Ronai's letter

'Chain Reaction II' In your February issue. (see below)



Chain Reaction II

I would like to add my opinion to the debate voiced by Valerie Nightingale and others. I am an occasional knitter, and much prefer it to crochet. Knitting seems to be much more skillful and versatile. To raise another issue, as much as I love knitting, I see it only as a hobby I take up every now and again when I want to relax. It seems crazy to me that women are still knitting sweaters for their family members as well as blankets and other home furnishings, when surely they already have so many demands on their time, from jobs to kids to housework. Surely feminism

happened to free women from such time-consuming tasks?

F Ronai, London

Knitting is a rewarding hobby for me and yes I do knit "sweaters for family members" but not because I feel I must. In most cases, it would be cheaper to buy ready-made items but it is not always possible to get exact colour/pattern/fit. It is a great satisfaction to produce a truly unique project, even an heirloom piece. Even the busiest amongst us sit down sometimes and I am sure many people, like myself, find it relaxing to pick up the latest project and enjoy some 'me time'. Best wishes for continuing success with the magazine.

Madeleine Weller (Mrs), Surrey

STAR LETTER

Art for art's sake

When I read the letter from F Ronai in Issue 34 I felt I must write to you.

Knitting is not a hobby; to me, it is an art form. As in

painting where you have watercolours, oil, gouache etc, it is fascinating to see such wide variations of products made from yarn. True artists can never stop; even when relaxing, they have to sketch as ideas come. The same applies to knitting. It is nothing to do with FEMINISM. I find knitting fascinating as one continues to learn and new patterns emerge. Knitting magazine has proved an inspiration to me and I now have a long queue of projects to make and not enough time.

Pat Wolley (Mrs), Lincolnshire

Happy bunny

I wish to thank you so very much for the gorgeous Badge Bunny from the Tait and Style competition in Issue 30. I often read your magazine whilst I am at my mum's, and when I saw this I made such a fuss over it I knew I had to enter. I sent off my postcard, and as with most competitions, forgot all about it. Imagine my surprise when I opened a present on Christmas Day to find the bunny inside. My mum had entered too, and of all the entrants you had chosen her! Thank you so much for having a great competition, and thank you so much Mum for my wonderful Christmas surprise!

Gill Wain, by email



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Member state

I am interested in applying to the Knitting and Crochet Guild for membership. Please can you let me know how the examination process works?

Anna Glynn, Galway

Ed's Reply

The Knitting and Crochet Guild is open to everyone interested in knitting (by hand or by machine) or crochet. There is no need to be an expert to join! Members include professionals, authors, teachers

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Style guide

As one of your US readers, who will never see the sunny side of 60 again, I had to comment on 'Reader Feedback II' (K33), whose author couldn't imagine anyone knitting the dressing gown (from K31). I was so enchanted with the pattern, as I've been looking for a lightweight woollen robe, I purchased the yarn and started the same day I bought the magazine.



PICTURE COURTESY OF ROMAN

If I'm going to spend my time knitting a garment, I don't want it to be something 'fashionable' that will look out of place when the next trend comes along. There's definitely a place for timeless elegance and classic style, which I suppose some might characterise as 'old-fashioned'. I really don't feel that my opinion on this subject is related to my age, as I've always been drawn to clothes that don't go in and out of style. However I also enjoy 'modern' patterns using the luscious new yarns, because I like to knit for my grandsons and nieces. I think your magazine does a lovely job of balancing the various styles and designs, and I also enjoy the designer profiles.

Mary Burns, Waterloo, IA

Odds and ends

We are a small group who knit for charity, mostly for disaster zones. We make baby clothes, blankets, toys etc and were wondering if any readers could send us any odd balls of wool they no longer want. We would be very glad of them.

Mrs E Pedley, 77 Brook Lane, Timperley, Altricham, Cheshire, WA15 6RT

Pen pals please

Thank you for the latest issue of Knitting magazine, which I look forward to every month. I was very interested to read that Louise West would like to hear from other readers as pen pals. I wrote to her today and I look forward to corresponding with her, but I would love to find other pen pals too. I am 54 years old and married. I love knitting, reading and writing letters. I'm a sponsor for Dogs Trust, PDSA, Cats Protection and the RSPB. I will reply to every letter that I receive and I would love to hear from pen pals of all ages.

Janet Miller, 63 Balmoral Terrace, Grangetown Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, SR2 9QQ



Editor Kate's cats make friends

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATE TAYLOR

On a roll

What a lovely start to 2007! We were thrilled to see our photo in January's issue of Knitting, and then, surprise surprise, a large box arrived, filled with such wonderful projects to knit and crochet. We both cannot wait to get started. Looking forward to hearing what your theme will be for this year's National Knitting Week and rest assured we will be taking part.

Rosemary Williamson and Jackie Bishop, Northampton

Ed's Reply

National Knitting Week 2007 is 13-21 October:

Keep an eye on the magazine and **www.nationalknittingweek.co.uk** for more news!



We always get many more letters than we can print and although each letter is read by the editor, we cannot send individual replies, so if you wrote recently, thank you and please keep in touch. Email if you have a query that readers may be able to help you with, but please note that only readers who are happy to have their contact details (email or postal address) printed will be published; that way you'll receive a much quicker response from our helpful **Knitting** readers. ●

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